

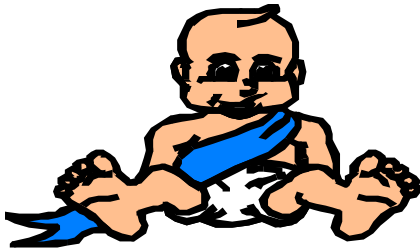


**AMERICAN LEGION - POST 639
VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL**

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The Veterans Voice
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January 2008 MEMBERS NEWSLETTER VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

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



COMMANDER’S MESSAGE:



Commander Powers is recovering from surgery and we wish him a speedy recovery. His leadership led to another successful year at Post 639 and we look forward to his continued leadership to bring us into 2008.

As we get older, time seems to pass faster and 2007 is now history. The year was filled with several events that our members can look back on with pride. Remembrance Day, Governor Blunt's presentation of the Viet Nam Service Medallions, jam sessions, Karaoke, NASCAR and football Sundays were all events that have given members a reason to take pride in our Post.

A special heart felt thanks to the Woman's Auxiliary, for the Children's Christmas Party and also to Mic Dunn for again providing the Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners.

The year culminated with our New Year's Eve Party and leaves us

ready for another year of fun, work, challenges and new fellowships.

We continue to see our membership grow and we welcome the veterans returning from the Gulf and hope they find our Post a place they can relax share stories and reflect on their service to our country.

As you look around the Post remember all the work done by Ron Jackson, Sam McGowan and Jack Martin in maintaining our Post. Just remember as you read through this Newsletter I hope you notice the number of programs and activities that are part of this post. This Post is a success because of the many individuals who step up and do whatever is needed. I look forward to another year of membership and association with the members, and may the 2008 Year be even more successful.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Larry Tuck, 1st Vice COMMANDER

FROM YOUR CHAPLAIN:



We are starting a New Year!! Now is the time to reflect on last years accomplishments and failures and to set new goals for this year. This could have hap-

pened at the post -

I was sitting at the bar when a man walked in and ordered a drink from Joyce, he told her that he had accepted a job in Springfield and was thinking about transferring his membership to our post and wanted to know what our post was like. Joyce asked him what his post was like and he replied that it was not so nice in fact they were quite rude. Joyce said, "Well, I'm afraid you will find the same attitude here." About that time another man walked up and ordered a drink and told Joyce he had just moved his family to town, he also was thinking about transferring his membership and asked what kind of post this was. Joyce asked, "What was your post like?" The man replied, "My post was great. We had fun and some of my best friends were there, I hated to leave." Well, said Joyce you'll find the same here. The man replied, "Thanks."

The first man was listening to the conversation and was now confused, he said what is this post really like? Joyce shrugged her shoulders and said, "It's a matter of your perception, you will find things just the way you think they are." Something to think about.

Jay D'Andrea's father passed away please remember him and his family in your prayers.

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Remember our troops, men and women in the service, our POW's and MIA's in your prayers.

Ruth & I wish each and everyone of you a safe and prosperous new year. HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Bob Carroll

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

I wish to thank the out-going officers, of ALR chapter 639, for their



efforts and dedication to the advancement of the chapter and the Legion in 2007.

Mike Reiff, Director, Dottie Reiff, Treasurer, Steve Skahan, Secretary, and Paul Kennett, Ride Coordinator, have made my job as Asst. Director a much easier task in the past year. Brothers and Sister, Job well done !! Thanks for all you've done. We'll see ya'll on the road.

I look forward to the coming year as Director and writer of this

column.

Larry Tuck has taken on another responsibility, as Asst. Director of ALR, along with President of ABATE and First Vice Commander of the Post.

Janey Tuck will be handling both Secretary and Treasurer chores this year. I look forward to continuing to work with both of them.

Jack McKee is the new ride coordinator for 2008. Jack seems to know every highway and back road in South West Missouri and most of North Arkansas. I'm sure he will put together another excellent ride schedule for the new year.

George Balke will continue as Historian for the chapter. Hope you're feeling better George.

Kim Boler as Chaplin, will again be asking for divine help in avoiding the "Idiots" out there as we leave on a ride.

On December 2nd. the Marine Corps reserve held the 27th annual "Toys For Tots" toy run. About 20 of our members were at the Post on that cold, rainy Sunday morning. Most were planning on riding but a few came just to see the rest of us off. Of those who didn't ride along, only a couple had a good excuse for not going. I guess the rest just wanted to see what bikers look like !! After the dozen or so bikes were on the way to the starting location, I wondered just how many other dedicated riders there were in Springfield. We started seeing other riders around the North side of town and by the time we ar-

rived at the staging location the question was answered. Upwards of 500 bikes were waiting at the staging area.

The Highway Patrol was in place for our escort. Santa, riding with a U.S. Marine along, was ready to roll. At just after 2pm. we rolled out of the lot headed for Strafford Middle School. The parade stretched out behind me for as far as I could see in my mirrors. Not as many people were watching from the roadside as in past years but the ones who did come out to see us ride past were enthusiastic

The organizers had extra strong coffee waiting for us at the school gym when we arrived. Last figure I heard on the number of toys collected is around 1300 for the Toy Drive. Thanks Marines!!

After a short time, for meeting and greeting old friends, our chapter members headed back to our Post for the planned festivities. Joyce, Gretchen, and Connie were already in high gear by the time we got back. Thanks to all of them and the Auxiliary and everyone else who brought chili to feed the riders. The "Jam Session" band sounded pretty good too. Thanks guys.

On December 8th several ALR members braved the uncertain weather to assist me in bringing the tent down at the Post, before the predicted ice storm hit us. Scott Drake, his step-son Ethan Van Dusen, Chris Foster and Larry Tuck provided the extra manpower that the job required. Thanks guys for the help.

Scott's girlfriend, Gina has earned

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a new nick-name. Ask her about it, and how she got it, next time you see her.

New members, Warren [Shep] Shepherd, Melinda Gould, Larry and Joanne Duncan, Guy Rayborn, Randy Wingo. Welcome aboard Chapter 639.

Ride Safe,

Ron Jackson, Director
ALR Chapter 639

Biker wisdom: Midnight bugs taste just as bad as Noontime bugs.

LADIES AUXILIARY:

Well, good morning ladies and Happy New Year. We had our meeting last night and we've got many plans for the new year.



We would really like to see more of our ladies or hear from you. Our paid membership needs to be at 100% and we are not reaching our goal, please remember to pay your dues as soon as you can, also, please remember if you have not paid in several years all you need to do is to fill out another application and pay the yearly \$20; no back pay is required.

We are a nationwide organization and we are very instrumental in our community and in our Post 639. See Marlene or myself for your membership card/ or questions, thank you for being a part of Ladies Auxiliary Post 639!! We are an awesome group and I'm proud to be a part of it!!

Please mark your calendars for some dates coming so far this year Remembrance Day meeting is January 14th Monday @6:30 pm, fish fry January 18th and Steak night January 26th. Feb 9th party for Valentines Day we will have a basket for Valentines day bring donations for it by E-board night 6pm JANUARY 28th. Looking ahead to March we will have a St Pats dinner on March 15th and March 22nd is the kids Easter Party!! We can not do it without all of you thanks and hope to see you all soon.

Ladies Auxiliary President, Terri Chandler

Bar & Kitchen Report

Happy New Year!!!! Wishing everyone a prosperous and healthy 2008!

Santa made it here December 1st to see all the kids despite his accident with Rudolph. Thank you, Santa.

On December 13th we held a wine tasting. Everyone brought appetizers and we had Chris playing some of our favorite Christmas tunes. It was a lot of fun!

The fish fry will be the third Friday, January 18th, with steak night being Saturday, January 26th. Clarke is the chef both evenings. Plan to attend. also, Tom Mabrey is turning 80 on January 5th., so the boss is throwing a party that evening starting at 7:00. Music will be by Chris.

Come support your Post!!!

Bobby, Connie, Gretchen, Shelia and Granny Joyce.

SAL

Happy Holidays to one and all! I hope the Season has been good to you and yours and the coming year is one filled with health, happiness, and good friends and family to share it with.

I would like to take a moment to thank the people who came to the Thanksgiving Day Dinner to help out. It never could've happened without you. I would like to thank WAL*MART for your wonderful donation, and to Beverly for talking to them for the Sons. You're a special lady! A very special thanks goes out to Greene County Damaged Freight for all they do for us, not just for Thanksgiving but for the rest of the year as well.

Thank you to all of the help in the kitchen, Dea, Lenny Doyle, Ricky T., Shawn, Mick and Connie for tending bar. If there's anyone I may have left out, I apologize. To everyone who brought something to add to the meal, thank you so much. it was all wonderful!

Don't forget the meeting on Tues. January. 15th @7pm. Please be there for it. I look forward to seeing you. Happy New Year to all!

Lance Shockley,
Commander SAL #639

Personal Message:

I want to thank all my friends who came to my party on Saturday January 5, 2008. Thanks you for your cards and gestures. You all made my day. Thanks.

Tom Mabrey

