



1305 Tucker Rd, Hood River, Oregon 97031 • 541.308.0000 • Club Hours: Thur.- Fri. 4:00pm – 8:00pm

From Your Commander:

Summer is upon us, and what a hot one it is going to be. That means there is no better time to come to the Post Thursday and Friday evenings for a cold drink and a bite of food for dinner. The 4th of July is right around the corner meaning parade and picnic at the post afterwards. As you'll be hearing later, we need extra volunteers to carry flags and banners during the parade. We can only accomplish this with a spirit of volunteerism in our members. We need your help. Contact any of the officers, or the Post if you can help out.

Restaurant Blast from the Past:

(Commander's Report August 2013)

(The Club Restaurant began at Post 22 in 2007 when we moved from downtown to our present location. A large expense went into preparing a kitchen and bar to serve our members and guests. The reality of life is that not enough members utilize the club to make it profitable. Of about 350 members of the Legion, Auxiliary, and the Sons of Legion, about 50-70 regularly frequent the club for dinner, drinks, and maybe play a little lottery.

The Post leadership in those early years recognized and accepted the fact that the restaurant has always operated in the red, and we have subsidized the restaurant operations with funds from savings, largely from the sale of the downtown building. To operate the club those funds have dwindled until, today we find ourselves at a crossroads. For several years bulletins and memos have said that if you want your club to continue, we must have more participation for those members who do not

currently experience the great meals and atmosphere of our club.

The time has come that action must be taken. In the fiscal year 2012 the club experienced a loss of \$22,190. So far this year even through every cost savings measure we have tried, every effort to encourage more participation, and even though we have a wonderful solid core group of members who do come in and have dinner and participate in the club activities, the club's loss is still over \$17,000.)

Now back to the present. We opened the Club back up a year ago in March. The intent was to see if we could offer a lighter dinner operating with just Leahanne as bartender.

The club is there only to serve you, our member, and your guests. We knew that even without the club in operations the utilities and maintenance of the Post building would be about a \$400 a month. Well after a year of running the club two nights a week, the Post reduced the yearly loss down to approximately \$8,000 or about \$700 per month average for the Post overall expenses including the restaurant. Dennis Leonard and a few officers have been helping Leahanne out on a volunteer basis, but we need more volunteers and more participation.

The American Legion dues are \$40 per year of which your local post receives \$13. If all members renew we would receive approximate \$2,600 each year in revenue. In reality only about 60-75% of our members are actually renewing which gives us about \$2,000 a year to run programs, help Vets, and giving scholarships, as well as for paying things like utilities. We have also been notified that the Department will be increasing their dues by 2017.

I am trying to help all of our members to realize that without your cooperation and participation, your Post may go broke. We have done our very best to reduce costs and reduce the annual loss but we need your help. Thanks to a few very generous members we have seen a few donations come in this past year to help meet expenses, yet if the American Legion in Hood River really wants to be actively helping our vets and their families, we need more people to frequent the club and to support our Post through volunteering, and through financial giving.

Remember all monies donated to the Post for operations and programs are tax deductible, and enable Post 22 to more effectively serve our local Veterans, and their families. A Donation form is provided on page 2 of the bulletin.

Decanter Raffles:

We are continuing with our fund raising raffles, to help meet the expenses of our Post and the Club. Dues alone cannot support the Post. Of the \$40 dues each year we keep only \$13. We need these fundraisers to support the Post and Club, as well as providing needs of the Vet at The Dalles Veteran's Home, and the various projects we are trying to work on.



We're now on the third raffle for a "Good Boy" Waterfowler Collection Decanter. There are 15 tickets left at \$5.00 each. All proceeds go toward Post 22 needs and activities. Members can also provide tax deductible donations to the Post to help us better serve our Veterans.

2016 Post Elections

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Carl Casey | Commander |
| Jim Tomson | 1st. Vice Commander |
| Dennis Leonard | 2nd Vice Commander |
| Tricia Stevens | Adjutant |
| Steve Thomas | Sgt-at-Arms |
| Robert Losli | Chaplain |

We still need to have volunteers to fill two Executive Committee Member positions. The volunteers from the general membership bring input and balance to the Executive Committee as we run the Post and Club. This only requires a couple hours each month at our meetings, and it is important that the general membership have a say in the operations. Please consider volunteering.

Commander Carl Casey

From the 1nd Vice Commander:

Know of a veteran eligible to join? Please have them contact me at 541-806-2544 for more information. We need new members! Join the team and invite your veteran friends and family to become part of the American Legion Team and get involved in assisting other veterans.

Please come in and renew your membership. We also need your DD 214, email addresses and telephone numbers. Please email or mail them to the Post, or call and leave a message (541 308-

Yes I would like to donate!

Name: _____

Address: _____

I would like donate to the following funds...

\$ _____ **Helping Local Vets.**
Used for Community support of local Vets and their families needing temporary assistance.

\$ _____ **Helping Local Vet's Home.**
Used for caring and support of needing Veterans in The Dalles Veteran's Home.

\$ _____ **Helping Vet's Children Education.**
Used for support of Legion College Scholarships awarded to select high school seniors toward college education.

\$ _____ **Helping Your Local Post.**
Your dollars are used to support your local Post 22 and Club and other Post activities.

Give where it means the most to you!

Post 22 is 503c16. Our EIN is 93- 0350380
For more information a
on giving options please call the post
at 541-308-0000 or check of our website.

www.hoodriverpost22.org

Regular Post Meetings

We are trying hard to work for you, our members, so please come join us at Post meetings the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. right here at the Post 22 at 1305 Tucker Rd. across the street from PP&L. Your participation and your voice are needed to help Post 22 better serve our veterans and their families. We still have two general executive committee member positions open. Get involved, it is only a few hours a month and our veterans and their families deserve your sacrifice.

0000). If you haven't sent yours in, please consider doing so.

1st Vice Commander Jim Tomson

From the 2nd Vice Commander

Picnic after the 4th of July Parade at 2:00pm at the Post. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, beer and pop will be provided. Please bring a side dish like a salad or dessert.

Thanks to Hug-a-Bear for cleaning up around the post and the following people for finishing the roof: Mark Adams, Kevin Bellus, Hug-a-Bear, Loren Laney, Mike Tabor, Brian Steves, Scott Seiverkropp, Scott Gilkerson and me (Denny Leonard).

Please help support the Veterans Home in The Dalles by dropping your spare change in the Veterans jar at the American Legion when you are in for dinner or make a donation if you like.

2nd Vice Commander Dennis Leonard

From the Adjutant

As our Commander explained time is of the essence and members should rally together to re-up memberships and generate interest for other local Veterans to join in the fun! The American Legion has a long and proud history; membership should bring a sense of pride for your military accomplishments. As a member of the American Legion you can help make a difference in the lives of our fellow Veterans.

A big THANK YOU to all who came to pay respect and tribute on Memorial Day at Idlewilde Cemetery. The service was beautiful. The seats were full and there was standing room only in the back. We need to recognize Denny Leonard for his hard work, and Bob Husky and his crew too.

STAND UP TO VOLUNTEER!!

The Legion is planning to honor our Veterans and those currently serving during the 4th of July Parade!! **We need 15 volunteers to come out and help with carrying branch flags, the legions banner, blocking off streets, and shuttling parade participants back to their cars after the parade.** Come join in the fun.

In addition to putting your time into the parade, you can get that feel good feeling from helping out with the Veterans Home Ice Cream Social. It means so much to our aging Veterans to see fellow Veterans helping out.

All volunteer activities are time well spent. To participate please contact the American Legion

Adjutant Tricia Stevens at 541-399-4656.

From HRCVSO (Les & Tricia)

Hood River County Veteran Service Office (HRCVSO), located in the County Building at 601 State St., is here to help Veterans navigate the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) and their services. We can help with gathering the information necessary to support a claim and file the claim on your behalf. There are a wide variety of services offered by the DVA that you may qualify for, including but not limited to; VA Health Care Benefits, Service-Connected Disabilities and Pensions, VA Loan Certificates of Eligibility, Vocational Rehabilitation, Aid & Attendance, Burial and Memorial Benefits. Even surviving spouses may qualify for certain benefits. Our staff can assist tracking your claim through the VA system; and if necessary, help with filing appeals for denied claims.



We strongly recommend that you make use of the services provided by Hood River County's Veteran Service Office. The claim process can be lengthy, which is why we stress the importance of coming in to register and request military records. It's easy and quick to register, all you will need to bring with is your DD214. Once we have your DD214 we will spend a few minutes discussing what benefits may be available to you and create a plan of action. It should be noted that some claims have lengthy processing times, because of this we advise all Veterans to make an appointment and get their VA file in order. This will help ensure we are more prepared when the time comes that you may need to rely on a benefit. Our expertise can help you avoid the pitfalls and delays that missing paperwork or improperly filled out claim forms can cause.

HRCVSO is staffed by the Veterans Service Officer, Les Logsdon, the Veterans Coordinator Tricia Stevens, and volunteer Veterans. Les, a retired Command Sergeant Major in the US Army served in Vietnam, Korea, Alaska and numerous stateside positions. He was a drill sergeant at Fort Dix and attended the Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss Texas. Les processes Veteran claims Monday and Tuesday between 9am and 4:30pm. Tricia, also a Veteran, served one tour in the US Navy, stationed at NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii. She worked within the Airframes Shop servicing P3-Orion Aircraft.

Call to Action!!! Volunteering at the HRCVSO is rewarding and much appreciated. Currently the HRCVSO office needs several additional volunteers to

help make copies, answer phones, and chat with Veterans in the office. If you are interested in donating your time to help better serve the Veterans of Hood River County, please contact our office for additional information.



American Legion Auxiliary:

Another very successful year has ended. Thank you everyone that helped.

We did very well with the Poppy sales. We ended up making \$1077.58.

Bring a lunch and join us for our first meeting September 2nd. We meet at noon at the Club.

Have a great summer.

Auxiliary President, Judy Osbourn



Sons of the American Legion

Please join us on August 20th at 2:00 pm at the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles for our bi/monthly Ice Cream Social and Bingo Party. We have done this twice and a great time is had by all!

We need SAL members willing to be officers. For more information on how to get involved contact Brian Steeves at number above, call the Post, or check the Website.

From Your Club Manager

If you have any Menu ideas, please let me know!

We are collecting items for the Oregon Veterans' Home. Some of the items needed are: Little Debbie's snacks and cinnamon rolls, bottled water, O'Douls or Coors Cutter (non-alcoholic beer),

individual flavored creamers, new electric razors (Norelco, Remington....), Poligrip, Polident, Postage Stamps (forever). Please drop items off at Post during normal business hours.

Yard Sale Saturday September 12th at 9:00 am. Please bring items by for the sale. Please don't bring any out dated computers or printers. Proceeds go to Post Projects. Thanks.

A big thank you goes out to Audrey Fisher for the decorations around the Post. It dresses the place up! Come by, check it out, and have a meal.

Don't forget the American Legion is available to rent out for special occasions. Contact me at Post 22 for more info. I want to thank you all!

Thanks Leahanne