

July 2007 Post 135 newsletter

Post Commander-Wes Bengé

Is there anyone out there, with new advice, on how to entice returning service members to join any veteran's organization? The latest research shows that the returning men and women are not joining the ranks of past returning patriots, thinking there is no more need of their service, when that is totally opposite of the truth! Are the present members getting it all done with all we got now? NO. Are there enough numbers in our group to pass along knowledge of government benefits? NO. Are we advertising and sending out the word to our young people? NO. Does the largest veterans organization have the clout and knowledge, to get it all started again? YES!

Why are we not getting all this done? One word. "Participation"! If every member gets out and recruits and don't worry about rejections, word will spread around the armed services like wildfire, and we can sit back and watch membership grow. Two things I feel sorry for. One, is the returning forces who doesn't understand the importance of the Legion, and the help they will receive in the future for them and their families. The second thing that I feel sorry for, are our best legion members who got out on their own and pushed for membership for us all, after they left us. Now we are seeing declines in memberships that should, considering the circumstances, be escalating to a peak! We are doing something wrong, here. I read that the V.F.W. are having to close up Posts because of lack of returning service persons not joining. These times right now, should be the banner years in membership growth; but it isn't! Are there any ideas on how we can get started again? Seems a shame, that we are letting down our forefathers again.

The 9/11 ceremony will be the next showings of patriotism, to the world, and I hope everyone gets out there and makes it a famous holiday for the country. I know those terrorist, harbor, helping countries hate to see us using the sad event as a positive means and not a negative means, like they intended it to be. It's kind of like: reversed psychology! It keeps us going after those cowards, forever. Wado.

## From the Second Vice

1st we will be closed JULY 4th!!!

Don't forget our Wednesday Potluck dinners to honor our vets! We will be closed the first Wed. of July the 4th, but here is our menu for July:

July 11: Grill/Potluck Bring the meat you would like to grill along with a side dish. July 18: Garden Fresh Potluck Bring a dish! July 25th: Breakfast Menu. Bring something to go with Bisquits and sausage gravy! August 1st: Cajun Food Bring something Cajun!

July 20th: Carl is planning a cookout. Bring a side dish and come eat with the legioneers at 2:00. July 28th as always is our Birthday Saturday! If you have a July birthday come on out and celebrate with everyone with birthday cake!

Rental Information: For our members we rent out the backhall/or shelter for any event that you may need more room for. Members Rental fee is \$50.00 with a \$100.00 deposit for the key and cleanup. If you need access to the kitchen and Ice machine it is an extra \$25.00. If as a member you want to reference a non member to rent the hall it is \$100.00 for them to rent the deposit and kitchen are the same as above.

Come on over to the Legion Post 135 and check out the huge improvements being made. We have a great new parking area that is wonderful. Thanks to our volunteers for all There help Art, Rog and Charlie have really put in alot of time and help using their own equipment. The Post really appreciates everything they have done. Carl A.

## From the First Vice

Post 135 is getting ready to kick off 2008 dues. I have several that have already paid, and as soon as I get the 2008 cards yours will be in the mail. The American Legion Fiscal Year is January 1 to January 1 but the new cards do not come out till after the state convention

which is usually in the first part of July. So you super early birds do have to wait till ole Tom get the cards to send you. We had a very good year last year with over 100%. (Adds a banner for our flag staff. (Thank you) Which I need quite often. Our dues have increased up to \$25.00 so it is going to be tougher year this year. But Post 135 has so much more going for it than it did a few years ago. We are having more cook outs, clean up days (Food) fish fries) Wednesday night dinners, I am trying to get peoples attention on have thing in the afternoon for our senior members like me to attend before dark, OK. We have also redone our parking area, so no more muddy shoes, Please come out an renew some old friendships, we do have a great time. **Till we meet again Tommy Thompson 1<sup>st</sup> Vice**