



VFW POST 9401 & AUXILIARY VIEWS



July -August 2016

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Victor H. Meliza, VFW Post 9401
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From The Commander

Comrades, Auxiliary, brothers and sisters of VFW Post 9401, welcome to a new year. I want to thank you all for sending delegates to the Department of Arizona VFW convention. It was a great opportunity to take in the training provided by Department Staff, and met some wonderful people in District 8 and Department (Comrades and Auxiliary) we shared ideas, compared notes, and exchanged information to keep in contact throughout the year to bounced ideas between each other. In speaking with the officers, both comrade and auxiliary, of this post we are excited to be involved and look forward to the opportunities this year brings.

One of the many things I learned at convention was how respected and admired Post 9401 is at both District and Department levels. We have accomplished great things in the past and I want to expand on these accomplishments so we as a post can be one of the top posts in the Department. Every member of VFW Post 9401 loves our post for different reasons, and we all have special talents that can help us achieve this status. With this being said, there is one thing I would like every member to think about. As individuals we are working against each other to reinvent the wheel. Working together as a team, with our collective efforts, our achievements are limited only by our imaginations. In the years I have been a member of this post I have seen and heard the complaints of members, the talking behind people's backs and rumors that spread like wild fire. In my opinion this is what I mean by working as individuals. We as members, Comrade and Auxiliary alike, have taken an oath to leave petty jealousies and differences at the door. This does not mean I am asking everyone to like each other because I know that is impossible, but I am asking that each and every member dig down deep inside and set aside those petty jealousies or differences and respect one another. Working together in this fashion there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

Lastly, I am asking all patrons to use the suggestion box. Whether it be a suggestion, complaint, or compliment please write it down and leave a way for us to contact you. This information allows us to contact you with an update on your submission, not as a retaliatory tool. I have always believed if someone takes the time to write it down they deserve a response. I will make sure the people that can handle each item receive the information and I will personally answer any compliment, complaint, or suggestion.

I leave you with this thought "Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." (Francis of Assisi)

Sincerely,
Stephen D. Knock
Commander, Post 9401

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Quartermaster's Corner

I'd like to bid Past Commander Emery a fond farewell and offer a hearty welcome to our new Officers who are joining the team. I wish us all at Post 9401 the very best for the coming year! On July 2nd, we held a July 4th celebration that was a great way to start off the year with Commander Knock and our team of officers for the 2016-2017 year.

It's been a long and very active month since we returned from convention. Summer is truly upon us and we need to tighten our belts as we await the return of our winter visitors. The views is late getting posted to the website and I have yet to be able to complete the database for sending it out via email. My hope is to have that accomplished by September in order to publish the next edition of the views not only online but through email. Volunteers that are familiar with publishing tools, email services and who are willing to donate their valuable time to assist in this endeavor are welcome to contact me. Once the email is set up with the contacts, getting the word out will be easier.

The Event Committee is focusing on fund raisers for our building fund in order to bring our bathrooms up to code and in hopes of actually seeing a building renovation come to fruition. You may have noticed that the 50/50 we tried out has disappeared from the bar, the excitement wore off quickly but we managed to get a meager start on the building fund. Ideas are more than welcome and even desired on events or fundraisers. Please make use of the suggestion box, we are here for you!

As a reminder, we will be kicking off the Life / Legacy Life Membership raffle this coming week. I will be handing out the tickets for Past Commanders to sell at the Comrade Meeting on July 7th.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, we could not run the post without you!

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." (Abraham Lincoln)

"Not for Self... but for the Post"

Carl Piacitelli

Quartermaster, Post 9401

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From Your Canteen Manager

It's now official....our new Officers have officially taken office. If you aren't sure who they are, just look at our new information board in the Canteen which is updated on a regular basis to keep everyone informed. Also, a "Meet 'n Greet" is scheduled for July 2. Please try to give them all of the support needed to make our Post the best it can be. Working together assures we are able to do more for our veterans and families.

Our first ever "Derby Day" party was a huge success. Many thanks to Chairperson Mary Gugert and her fantastic committee. Everyone had a wonderful time and is looking forward to next year's Kentucky Derby. The hats and outfits were amazing and it was nice to see so many of our members participating in the frivolities. I heard Marlene's Bourbon Balls were terrific.

Our Installation of Officers went very well. Many thanks to everyone who helped. The ceremony, food, and, entertainment by Billy Mac helped make this an eventful day for everyone.

The Memorial Day Ceremony at Lake Havasu Memorial Gardens was perfect. Thank you to all who participated. A very moving and memorable day. Thanks to Kristen and crew from Lietz-Fraze for returning to our Post to help raise money for our Veteran's Programs (and they raised a lot) and to all of our members and guests who attended.

Upcoming events include:

Saturday, 7/9/16 Brats plus 12N – 3PM

For those who aren't aware we once again have an Activities Committee chaired by Ron Lomsdal. There are many plans in the works to have more functions/activities to make your visits to the Post more enjoyable. One of these is to have food on Saturdays from 12N – 3PM. Menu choice will change depending on volunteers and availability to help. Check board for details. If you have any suggestions, please let any officer, or one of the members of the Activities Committee know for their consideration. Seems they have several good ideas already. So remember, always check the board or signage at Post for updates, additions and/or changes.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Post. And remember, your bartenders are all volunteers.

God Bless America and God Bless our Troops!

Lynda Rodgers
Canteen Manager

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

From the Auxiliary President

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Wow just returned from convention with a lot to do. Everyone's help will be needed to make this an Outstanding Year.

Don't forget Auxiliary meeting Thursday July 16th 6PM has been canceled. Our next meeting is August 11 at 6 PM.

Committee chairman and assistance are needed fill to several positions. It's time to step up and be active or take on a small job. Participation is vital to success of all Post activities.

50/50 signups are needed for July and August; this is an important fund raiser for us throughout the year.

Jim Mack
Auxiliary President

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From the Auxiliary Treasurer

Auxiliary Members,

What a year this past one was! We welcomed men into the Auxiliary and have seen many changes. There will be more changes to come, and your help is needed. The main point to remember is that there is no longer a "Ladies Auxiliary". We are now the VFW Auxiliary. Any men who were members of the "Men's Auxiliary" should know that the Men's Aux to Post 9401 closed its doors on Dec. 31, 2015. You are welcome to join the VFW Auxiliary; you must fill out an application and have proof of eligibility. The cost to join as an annual member is \$30.00 and Life Membership cost is based on your age.

Speaking of Life Membership, those who are considering that purchase will want to do so soon. National wants to raise the amount and it will be voted on at the National Convention.

Those of you who have not paid your dues for 2016 are now no longer members. You must fill out an application and rejoin the Auxiliary.

I have received the 2017 pre-printed membership cards, so I can now accept your dues. I will be able to start processing 2017 dues on July 1.

Please know that you may call my home if you have questions. My number is 928-855-7049. Also, remember to check out the Department web site at www.azvfwaux.org and the National web site at www.vfwauxiliary.org. They both offer a lot of information about the programs we work. The National web site also has information on benefits available to members. You can sign up to receive their respective newsletters.

Dallas Emery
Auxiliary Treasurer

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The Skinny, Scoop & Score

Did You Know?

1. VFW “Buddy” Poppy Program

VFW “Buddy” Poppy Program, our oldest and perhaps most historically significant program is the VFW “Buddy” Poppy program. It is important that you realize that although Memorial and Veterans Days are particularly important “Buddy” Poppy events, you should have poppies at every event that involves your Post and the public. Poppies can and should be distributed year-round. I’m sure you know that we never “sell” poppies. We give them away and receive donations. If someone cannot make a donation, don’t deny them a poppy. Seeing the red poppy on a lapel or dress brings honor to those we have lost and recognition to the VFW. Additionally, section 219 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, mandates that the net proceeds from the distribution of Buddy Poppies must be credited to the Post Relief Fund. Also listed in section 219 are the purposes which funds can be disbursed from the Post Relief Fund. I would encourage officers at all levels of the organization to familiarize themselves with this section. Additional information concerning the execution of the program can be found at www.vfw.org, behind the login within the VFW Training and Support hub, under Community Service, Youth Scholarships and Activities.

2. Post 9401 2015 – 2016 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy campaign:

Memorial Day Poppy Distribution Board

The funds donated by individuals, poppy cans, and street distribution on Veterans Day and Memorial Day this year will be split between the Post and its’ Auxiliary. The net proceeds of the distribution of Buddy Poppies will be deposited in the Post and Auxiliary relief funds. The uses of these funds are outlined in the VFW Manual of Procedure, Article VII, Section 704. The total amount donated to the Buddy Poppy Campaign was four thousand seven hundred forty-seven dollars and fifty-three cents (\$4,747.53).

Post: \$2,373.77

Auxiliary: \$2,373.76

To all those who participated in this year’s Campaign----THANK YOU!

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VFW

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3. Legacy Life Member explanation of benefits:

Member incentives	Bronze	Silver	Gold
	\$400	\$800	\$1200
Plated Engraved Life Member Card -----•-----•-----•			
Lapel Pin-----•-----•-----•			
Hat Pin -----•-----•-----•			
Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life Members-----•-----•-----•			
Framed Legacy Life Member Certificate -----•-----•-----•			
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program-----•-----•-----•			
Member Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building			
In Washington D.C. and Museum at National Headquarters-----•-----•-----•			
Special Legacy Life Member Plaque-----•-----•-----•			
Hat Patch-----•-----•-----•			
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza-----•-----•-----•			
Member incentives	Bronze	Silver	Gold
	\$400	\$800	\$1200
VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only)*-----5%-----10%-----15%			
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance*-----\$2000-----\$3500-----\$5000			
Annual Endowment Post-----\$6-----\$12-----\$18			

*Does not apply to Memorial Legacy Life Membership

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4. The Post meeting

“The Post meeting is the center of all Post activities. Every member has a right to attend all meetings and has a voice in their proceedings. It is at the Post meeting that the Post adopts its By-Laws, its Club Regulations, decides its policies, and distributes responsibilities. Within practical limitations, the Post meeting is supreme to the Post Officers, committees and employees. The membership present may overrule decisions of the Post Commander or House Committee; they may approve expenditures, set policies, and delegate authority. The Post meeting cannot take any action contrary to the National or Department By-Laws or rules or in conflict with its own By-Laws. It is important to understand that there are limitations on the authority of the Post. A member has the right to appeal any Post action to the District Commander (Section 109 of the Manual of Procedure), who will determine whether that action was proper. In extreme cases, a member can go to the courts if he/she feels that their rights have been abused by an action of the Post. The Post cannot take unreasonable actions at a meeting. For instance, it could not refuse payment of a legitimate bill for an item authorized for purchase at a previous meeting. It cannot direct an officer or member to do anything contrary to VFW regulations or public law. It cannot take away any of the authority given to individual officers through the National By-Laws. Ideally, the Post meeting makes the rules and sets the policy for the Post; other levels of authority carry them out.”

Owen Johnston
ozjohnston@aol.com

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