



July 2011 Newsletter

Post6298@Gmail.com

Letter From The Editor

This is a new version of our monthly newsletter. Many have warned me that it can be a daunting task. I am looking forward to the challenge. I find it not only a responsibility but also a privilege to work for the members of Post 6298. This is the first time I have been responsible for a newsletter to a large organization so I have established a couple of guidelines for myself.

- **KISS** Keep it Simple and Short. I will try not to repeat information you will find in the Monthly Meeting Notes put out by the Adjutant.
- **Keep it Interesting.** I will depend on all of you, the members, to let me know of articles you want published in the newsletter. So I need as much input from you as possible, pictures most welcome. Send them to the e-mail address above

Pat Leary

Post Meetings

Monthly Membership Meeting
Coffee and Donuts

Thursday July 14 at VFW Hall
Every Saturday AM 7:30 – 9:00 VFW Hall

Would be great to see you there.

From the Post Commander, Dave Ham

This Ain't No Good Ole Boys Club

A little over 12 years ago, when I first joined the VFW, I was asked why I'd want to be part of an organization that sits around, drinks beer and plays cards. Unfortunately this is a wide held opinion of what the VFW is all about. It's hard for me to believe that "Combat Hardened" veterans would be recognized for something they don't do, rather than the many actives that we are proud to be a part of. Over the past several years we have engaged in several programs that are more than just noteworthy. Post 6298's effort with East Bay Stand Down has become a mainstay for feeding and providing support to our homeless veterans. The post is an active part of welcoming home our troops.



We hold the largest Veterans Day Parade in Alameda County and our Memorial Day Ceremony continues to grow each year. On top of that our color guard is always busy with opening ceremonies for the July 4th event, Pleasanton Junior Football League, Little League, Eagle Scout Awards, City Awards program and of course memorial ceremonies for the fallen. These are things that as members we should be proud.

I must credit our past commander, Doug Miller, for his efforts to have our post viewed as an organization that is more than a "good ole boys club". He has acted as an ambassador of good will assisting Wounded Warriors, Supporting the Fisher Houses and keeping the post involved with the Sentinels of Freedom that provide scholarships for severely injured servicemen and women. He has asked us all to volunteer to help when you can and take pride in what the Post does. I applaud his efforts to instill a sense of professionalism for all of our members.

As your new commander it would be easy to focus on what we already do well, however I'd like to focus on what we can do better. Each of us are issued a post shirt when we become a member, so each of us can be part of the color guard to help fulfill the many commitments throughout the year. Unfortunately we still have trouble getting together 5 people for each color guard. We all use the excuse, "I'm too busy" or "It's too far" or the best one "I've already done my time". The color guard is what the public sees, and we should always be seen in the best light with a full color guard, dressed uniformly and with spark in our step. There are many events that each of us can play a bigger role.

I will lead by example and remain committed to all of the Post's activities, but no one can do it alone. Let us continue to remain focus on our cause and let everyone know that we, a group of combat veterans, are more than a "good ole boys club".

Dave Ham
Post Commander

TAPS

Wesley Vigers, 1932-1911, resident of San Leandro Ca. Wesley lived in San Leandro for the last 38 years. He served 4 years active duty as a Marine in Korea and 4 years in the Reserves. Wesley has asked that memorial contributions be made to VFW Post 6298.



Follow Up

The Hometown Pancake Breakfast was a huge success. Thanks much to Dave Ham for all the work to organize and execute. It was such a great success the name was changed to The First Annual Hometown Breakfast. Congratulations Dave.

The Specialist Lindskog Memorial Service was most moving and well done. Thanks to Doug Miller and all the officers who made this happen.

The VFW and American Legion booth at the Alameda County Fair was expanded from Saturday-Sunday to Friday-Sunday this year. The extra day was a last minute surprise. Thanks to Dave Caldwell and Rene LaVigne (AL) for making this happen.

The Color Guard from VFW Post 6298 posted the flag for the 13th annual Pleasanton 4th of July picnic in Wayside Park. Thanks to Bill Danko for leading the Color Guard services to the community.

Future Events

August 13 We will have a presentation from the Lifemark Group at the VFW Hall. This is open to all veterans and their spouses. Lifemark will present a program they have to help Veterans make funeral plans and take advantage of all veterans' death benefits.

October Fleet Week in San Francisco is Oct 7-9th. If you have been to Fleet Week before you know it is something not to miss. If you have not been to Fleet Week you need to go.

Help Wanted

The Veterans Club at Los Positas College has a new and their first real home. It is a newly constructed suite of rooms in Building 1000. It will have a Day Room and an IT equipped study room as well as administrative offices. They are looking for volunteers to man the information desk. Even if you don't volunteer I would recommend that you drop by if you get a chance. These are some remarkable young men and women. Contact Todd Steffan tsteffan@laspositascollege.edu , 925-424-1571 or 1572



Help Wanted

The parade planning committee is well underway contacting participants for the 15th Annual Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade to be held Sunday November 6th at 1 pm in Downtown Pleasanton. The theme for 2011 is "Army Strong" paying special honor to the men and women of the United States Army. This will be Pleasanton's first parade to honor the Army and we hope for a huge turnout. Speakers include the Mayor of Pleasanton, The Mayor of Dublin and the 11th District US Congressmen. Planning is also in the works for a Medal of Honor recipient to be our featured speaker. If you can help on parade day, please let Dave Ham (VFW) or Rich Ghera (American Legion) know.

Articles, insights, information, and opinions needed for our newsletter. Please send to Pat Leary at Post6298@gmail.com

Need volunteers to staff an information booth at Las Positas College for Operation Gateway July 20-22nd. This is an opportunity to meet some outstanding young veterans who are returning to school after their service. We would like to meet them and introduce them to VFW Post 6298. Contact Pat Leary at Post6298@gmail.com.



New Officers

July marks the transition to new officers for the year. It is a significant commitment of time to be a Post officer. Be sure to thank the guys who are volunteering to serve this year. And give a special thanks to the outgoing officers for a job well done.

THANKS TO VFW POST 6298 OFFICERS
 JOB WELL DONE CONGRATULATIONS
 2010 -2011 2011-2012

Commander	Doug Miller	Dave Ham
Senior Vice Commander	Dave Ham	Jim Lyon
Junior Vice Commander	Bill Danko	Johnny Delasahw
Quartermaster	Dave Caldwell	Dave Caldwell
Chaplin	Ray Cloutier	Ray Cloutier
Adjutant	Phil Stage	Phil Stage
Judge Advocate	Joe Sweeney	Joe Sweeney
Service Officer	Gene Cota	Gene Cota
Officer of the Day	Gary Cantrell	Phil Stage
Trustees	Bill Evans	Bill Evans
	Russ Kennedy	Russ Kennedy
	Jim Lyon	Doug Miller