



BEACH NEWS

April



2024



AMERICAN LEGION HUNTINGTON BEACH POST 133

**Next meetings are
April 10 at 7:00
PM
at Memorial Hall
1718 Orange Ave.
Speaker will be the
HB Mayor.**



Commander Jim Ghormley

SPRING IS HERE! Happy Vernal Equinox! End of winter was busy around the Ghormley domicile. Pavers replaced all our concrete; much landscape cleanup as a result; new paint; and other upgrades. We are glad spring is here.

American Legion Huntington Beach Post 133 has been very busy as well. You can be justifiably proud of the Post accomplishments, especially in the area of veteran support. The Post continues to provide immediate emergency assistance to veterans in need. During the first quarter, the Post used its resources for veterans in the areas of food, gas, transportation, temporary housing, auto repair, and in one case, the purchase of a transportation vehicle. Post legionnaires provided moving assistance, home clean up, and personal transportation for veterans. The HB 133 Post Veterans Resource Center continues to be a wonderful one shop stop for veteran help. The Post now has a new Veteran Service Officer (VSO). The VSO is available the second and fourth Saturday of the month for appointments (from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm) to help veterans apply for benefits from the Veterans Administration. Appointments can be arranged by calling the VRC during VRC business hours (2:00 to 6:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday, and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Friday).

The Post leadership is hosting a family social event on Saturday, 13 April 2024 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The location is the Post meeting venue, Memorial Hall, 1718 Orange, Huntington Beach. All Post members are invited along with their families. We promise great food, drink (non-alcoholic), desserts, and fun! There will be games for the children and camaraderie for the adults. I look forward to seeing all of you, or as many as possible, at our first family social event!

The Post Honor Guard continues to support veterans and their families with final honors at funerals and mortuaries. The Honor Guard also performs opening flag ceremonies for special events. If you have not had the opportunity to witness one of the Honor Guard performances, I strongly encourage you to do so.

Membership is always a very important topic. Your Post has 478 members as of 9 March 2024. These are roster members. Of that number, 380 have paid their dues. This puts the Post at 80% paid. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Our most important asset is our paid members!!!

On Friday, 29 March 2024, HB Post 133 will host Vietnam War Veterans Day. The time is 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The location is Huntington Beach Central Library, downstairs in rooms C and D. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. This a special day to welcome and honor Vietnam War Veterans and to recognize their service to our country. The VRC will present Home Care for Veterans on 9 April 2024 from 6-7 pm, Huntington Beach Central Library, Talbert Room (Main Floor).

POST 133 OFFICERS:

Jim Ghormley, Commander
562-355-7223

Elaine Parker, 1st Vice
714-421-0860

Frank Passarelli, 2nd Vice
714-402-1923

Jim Rossman, 3rd Vice
714-267-7094

Dennis Bauer, Adjutant
714-536-3855

George Focht, Finance Officer
714-842-2410

Jim Seiler, Judge Advocate
714-910-8833

Tom Welch, Chaplain
714-968-7732

Frank Passarelli, Serv. Officer
714-402-1923

Jim Seiler, Historian
714-910-8833

Norm Sumner, Sgt-At-Arms
714-848-5488

John Gontarz, Asst. Sgt-At-Arms
714-884-5327

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bud DeWees

Bob Laizure

Gary Robles

David Biegel



UNIT 133 AUXILIARY NEWS Tina Bauer President



Our Southern California Spring/Summer is trying to arrive, depending on the day of the week. The rainy days and colder weather have brought plant/trees/flowers growing spurts, some wind, rain, thunderstorms, and beautiful sunsets. This time of year can provide us moments and time to reflect as we recharge and put our own energy to good use – taking care of ourselves and family, helping others as we are able, and supporting our veterans, their families and the HB community.

On a positive note, the HB Unit 133 held interviews end of February 2024 to select delegates and alternates for the 2024 Girls State Session to be held in June of this year. We had an awesome group of girls apply from the 6 high schools we support adding Los Amigos HS this year; the Unit 133 delegates selected are Victoria L. (Edison HS), Abigail K. (Fountain Valley HS), Hera P. (Huntington Beach HS), Allison S. (Los Amigos HS), Kenzy A. (Marina HS) and Lizeth B. (Ocean View HS). We also have 1st Alternates and 2nd Alternates for most of our participating schools. Thank you Noella Passarelli our Unit 133 Girls State Program Chairperson for coordinating this program, working with each school, the applicants and their parents, conducting interviews with the assistance of Unit 133 members and community volunteers, answering questions, monitoring due dates to ensure our delegates submit their applications, and communicating with District 29 and Department of California Girls State Chairpersons. To help us fund this worthwhile program, in addition to HB Unit 133 fundraisers, we applied for assistance from the HB Elks Lodge and HB Kiwanis who generously help us each year so there will be no cost to the delegate and their family.

In February working with all the Auxiliary Units in District 29, over 350 Valentine gift bags were deliv-



ered to the Long Beach VA blind ward, spinal ward, psych wards, community living center, Fisher house and Pier group for female and male veterans, including those who are diabetic acknowledging their special needs. In addition a lunch of sandwiches, drinks, chips and desserts were provided.



We received a special thank you note from a local family for the valentine gift bags "My dad is a patient of the CLC in the VA Long Beach. He received one of your delightful Valentine Goodie Bags! He got such a kick out of it. It brightened his day and ours too! Thank you to everyone involved in this project a labor of love!"

Each year at our April meeting we have discussions/nominations for our Unit Elected Officers for the July 1st to June 30th year. The HB Unit 133 elected positions are President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Executive Committee, Secretary and Treasurer. Appointments for all other Unit 133 positions and committee chairpersons are made at a later date by the Unit President. If you wish to be considered for any of the elected offices or would like to continue serving in a current position, please contact me via email or telephone to discuss your interest. Our Unit achievements are a direct result of the continued commitment and participation of all members. Your time and effort is appreciated. Many Unit 133 members think they cannot assume a leadership position actually find it much easier than they imagined. It is important for our Unit to get candidates to keep our programs going. Members who have continually stepped to the forefront to serve as officers and committee and program organizers will not give up their commitment to this wonderful organization that has given so many a helping hand.

In closing we would like to send wishes to our members celebrating birthdays and special occasions in April. Thank you to our renewing members and welcome to our new members who have joined HB Unit 133 your generosity helps us to maintain the much needed support for our Veterans and their families, our youth, and our community.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our activities, membership for family and friends, or volunteering.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on April 10th or upcoming events.

Tina Bauer, e-mail: alahuntingtonbeachunit133.com or 714-655-7333.

Helping veterans

Robert McClish and Dennis Bauer along with a Marina HS student cleaned a veteran's yard to prevent him from being evicted. Before and after pictures.



Truck load of trash, and the workers with the veteran below.



Post Family 133 Social

April 13 at Memorial Hall. There will be food and drinks for the whole family. Games for children provided by the Huntington Beach library system. **Please RSVP to:**

Dennis Bauer@socal.rr.com by April 9.

Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Please note that July 1, 2023 is the beginning of the new membership year. Our dues remain at \$30. Contact Dennis Bauer with membership questions: 714-642-8846. We now have 67 members.

1st Vice Commander Elaine Parker



MEMBERSHIP:

Please renew your FY2024 dues of \$45.00. Non-payment of dues could result in loss of your American Legion membership. Please renew online at www.legion.org/renew or make a check payable to American Legion Post133 and mail it to: American Legion Post133, P.O. Box 133, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

National is raising dues July 1 by \$5, therefore Post 133 dues will go up to \$50.

2nd Vice Commander Frank Passarelli



SOCIAL CALENDAR:

Brunch: April 6 at 9 AM at Longboard downtown.

Coffee: 9 AM April 15 at McDonald's, Goldenwest north of Yorktown.

Lunch: April 24 at 11:30 AM at Mama's on Beach and Atlanta.

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

Guaranteed acceptance life insurance policy for all veterans aged 80 and under with service-connected disabilities from 0-100%. For more information visit: va.gov/life-insurance.

Vietnam veterans day March 29th starting at 11am-1pm there will a continental breakfast and a light lunch served at central library. There will be a discussion panel.

We have started having a VSO representative on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month with a certified VSO representative by appointment only please contact Robert McClish or Frank Passarelli to make an appointment.



American Legion Post 133
P.O. Box 133
Huntington Beach, CA 92648



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Post 133 is one of a few posts that provide financial and other assistance to local veterans and their families.

In the past Post 133 built a ramp for a WWII veteran as he could not get out of his house with his walker pictured right.



Post 133 provided a new roof, siding and deck for a veteran's home. Then we painted the home, pictured left.