



BEACH NEWS

Feb-Mar



2024



AMERICAN LEGION HUNTINGTON BEACH POST 133

**Next meetings are
February 7 (note
change) & March
13 at 7:00 PM
at Memorial Hall
1718 Orange Ave.**



Commander Jim Ghormley

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We hope you were all able to celebrate to your hearts' content!! Barbara and I spent a quiet New Year's Eve. Stayed up late – 9:30 pm – then set alarm for 1150 pm, so we could watch the ball drop in New York since media only shows a video delay now when it is midnight here! So far, 2024 has been a busy year for us and it is only 18 January (at this writing). We

look forward to more of the same as the year progresses. All good!
Your American Legion Huntington Beach Post 133 (Post) ended 2023 on some very positive notes. The final tally for the Second Annual Post Car Show garnered the Post a net of over \$10,000.00. On a second note, your Post partners with the organization Tee It Up for the Troops to provide veteran support. As a result of Post participation and support of Tee It Up for the Troops mission, the Post received a donation of \$30,000.00 from Tee It Up for the Troops! What a great way to end calendar year 2023. As you all know, funding raising and donation successes such as these provide your Post with resources to continue your Post mission of support to veterans within the Post assigned communities through the Post Veterans' Resource Center.

In my last Post newsletter message to you, I referred to an initiative wherein the Post would sponsor a social gathering for all Post members and their families. Your Post leadership is bringing this initiative to fruition! There is a Post planning and action committee in place! Our first Post Social Gathering will be on 13 April 2024 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The location is the Post meeting venue, Memorial Hall at 1718 Orange, Huntington Beach. Please save the date. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the gathering date. The purpose of such a gathering is to encourage greater participation in Post functions by all our members. Going forward, Post leadership will schedule these gatherings on a quarterly basis. As participation increases, formats and frequency of the social gatherings can be varied. I very much look forward to seeing all of you at one or more of these Post social gatherings.

The Post Veterans Resource Center (VRC) provided support to numerous veterans during the Months of December and January. Support services included gas for cars, food, lodging, transportation, and in one case purchasing a very low-priced transportation car. VRC leadership has also hired a new Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for support to the veterans in the Post assigned geography. The VSO will be at the VRC the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

If you have not already done so, remember to pay your Post dues. Paying dues is one small way we can all contribute to veteran support.

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



As we begin 2024, we have many projects to be accomplished, and are looking forward to continued support and volunteers from our HB Unit 133 members. The weather has been a challenge for all of us, but we definitely need the rain in California; remember to bundle up for the colder temperatures. Our membership has grown to almost 200 members this year. Thank you to our renewing members and welcome to our new members. Although we have added many new members this year, we still have Auxiliary Unit 133 members who have not sent in their renewals. **If your membership card does not read 2024, please send in your payment of \$40.00 immediately to keep your membership current (payable to American Legion Auxiliary HB 133); pay online (with a credit card) at the American Legion Auxiliary National website alaforveterans.org; or contact me to pay with Zelle directly to our auxiliary bank.** Remember our membership year is July 1st to June 30th. Please contact me if you have questions about your membership status, if you need financial assistance to pay your dues, or how to bring your membership current if you owe for more than 1 year. Your generosity helps us to maintain the programs to support for our Veterans and their families, our youth, and our community.

Although we did not meet in December we had a very busy month bringing holiday cheer to our Veterans at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center. We provided holiday gift cards for those veterans who are receiving services from the Post 9/11 Military2VA Case Management Program (Veterans Transition Center and Care Management Program) for distribution to the young men and women receiving outpatient on-site services, and adopted a local veteran and their family through the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (Voluntary Services Department) - Operation Santa program providing them with requested items to enhance their holidays.

Once again this year we will be providing valentine gift bags to the Long Beach VA Community Living Center (CLC). On Saturday, January 28, 2024 at Memorial Hall we filled and decorated over 30 gift bags. We had many volunteers to help including HB unit 133 members and friends, Girl Scouts from local troops, and some of our 2023 Girls State delegates.

GIRLS STATE UPDATE: Delegates to the ALA Girls State program are selected by American Legion Auxiliary units, which work with local high school educators and counselors to select young women demonstrating leadership qualities. California Girls State is a leadership program of the American Legion Auxiliary designed to increase awareness and knowledge of governmental processes while learning about the duties, privileges, rights

and responsibilities of citizenship. Delegates come away with a greater appreciation of the American Flag and of the sacrifices made by our veterans. While at Girls State, they make friends with girls from around the state and have a fun week they'll remember for the rest of their lives. Our Unit 133 Girls State Interview Team led by Noella Passarelli will conduct interviews for the 2024 Girls State Session in the next few weeks; Unit 133 members will participate in the interview process and serve as hostess meeting with parents and the students waiting to be interviewed sharing information about the American Legion Auxiliary and the Girls State Program we support. High School Juniors from the 5 local high schools (Edison, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Marina and Ocean View), participate in this program we have been supporting since 2004. We started with just two schools Edison HS and Huntington Beach HS and have expanded to the five schools we support today. We would not be able to continue this program without the generous donations from the Huntington Beach Elks, Huntington Beach Kiwanis and everyone who supported our Holiday wreath fundraiser that helps with payment for the Girls State fees for our delegates.

There are many resources available for members to learn about American Legion Auxiliary Huntington Beach Unit 133 Programs, at our monthly meetings, our social events, and other activities which are mentioned in the American Legion Post 133 website and the monthly newsletter "Beach News". To learn about the many programs for our members who have internet access, visit the National website alaforveterans.org. As a Unit 133 member you can sign up on the website and receive your newsletters, renew your membership dues paying with a credit card, read articles about the programs and activities of the American Legion Auxiliary which was established in 1919 and participate in the free online course in the ALA Academy, "ALA 101", that will provide members with excellent information about the Auxiliary mission.

Happy Birthday wishes to HB Unit 133 members who are celebrating birthdays and special occasions in February and March.

We continue to meet monthly at Memorial Hall located at the city of Huntington Beach 17th Street Park on Orange Avenue. HB Unit 133 meetings for the next few months will be **February 7, 2024 (note date change)**; March 13, 2024; April 10, 2024; May 8, 2024; and June 12, 2024. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM. We will continue to have holiday, seasonal and Patriotic scarves at each meeting. The scarves are only \$10.00 and help support all our HB Unit 133 programs.

Happy Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Happy St Patrick's Day enjoy your celebrations with family and friends.

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 meetings.

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

POST 133 ORATORICAL CONTEST

On January 06, the Post Oratorical was held by Legionnaires Elaine Parker, Gary Robles, Peter Goldade & Reggie Chun. While outreach was started during Thanksgiving week, due to the early date set by the District Oratorical contest, we only had one orator, Samson Rakhshani of Edison High School (pictured below), instead of our usual three contestants. Samson was last year's Boys State delegate and last years Post Oratorical winner. Samson gave a speech about the Absolute Truth of the Constitution, winning our \$300 First Place award. He and Reggie Chun will be representing our Post at the District Oratorical on Jan 21 at the Buena Park Post.



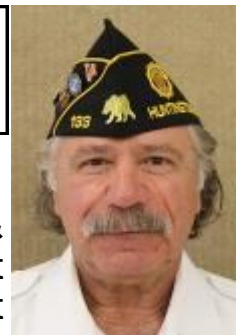
**1st Vice Commander
Elaine Parker**



MEMBERSHIP:

Please renew your FY2024 dues of \$45.00. Non-payment of dues could possibly 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.

**2nd Vice Commander
Frank Passarelli**



SOCIAL CALENDAR:

Coffee: 9 AM February 2 & 19 and March 1 & 18 at McDonald's, Goldenwest north of Yorktown.

Lunch: 11:30 AM February 28 at Zubies Dry Dock 9059 Adams Ave, HB.

March 27 lunch to be determined, check website www.hbpost133.com.

Post 133 social April 13 at Memorial Hall. There will be food and drinks for the whole family.

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. We now have 58 paid members. Contact Dennis Bauer with membership questions: 714-642-8846.

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

Hours are Monday-Thursday 2:00 PM—6:00 PM, and Friday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM.

New Veterans Service Officer will be available 2nd & 4th Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM. For an appointment contact Robert McClish at 562-201-0239.



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



Serving Surf City Since 1919

www.hbpost133.com

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA
 PERMIT 329

Post 133 brunch every first Saturday of the quarter, January 6 (pictured), April 6, July 6 and October 5 at 9:00AM at Longboard restaurant downtown, HB



THANK YOU
 FOR YOUR SERVICE

AMERICAN LEGION
HUNTINGTON BEACH

