



BEACH NEWS

July



2023



AMERICAN LEGION HUNTINGTON BEACH POST 133

**Next meeting is
July 12, 7:00 PM
at Memorial Hall
1718 Orange Ave.**



Commander Jim Ghormley

The new fiscal year (2023-2024) is with us! The start of each year for American Legion Post 133 begins with installation of new officers. On Wednesday, 14 June 2023, Post and Auxiliary members and spouses gathered for the installation ceremony and dinner at Olive Garden Restaurant in Huntington Beach. Your newly installed Post officers for FY 2023-2024 are: Commander Jim Ghormley; 1st Vice Commander Elaine Parker; 2nd Vice Commander Frank Passarelli; 3rd Vice Commander Jim Rossman; and Board members Gary Robles and David Beigel. Other officers remain the same. The dinner and evening were a great success. A special thank you to Tina Bauer and Noella Passarelli for organizing and ensuring we would have a memorable experience.

I am very humbled to be your new Post 133 Commander for 2023-2024. I have been a member of the Post since 2002 functioning as the master of ceremonies for Post sponsored events. Now you have given me the opportunity to be part of your Post command structure. My one goal is to sustain and build on the outstanding record of veteran support and community involvement that are the hallmarks of Post 133's reputation. Fortunately, there are many dedicated, knowledgeable, and professional individuals that provide backup and work miracles to ensure the Post continues to thrive.

Your Post 133 for the past two years has had the good fortune to have as its commander, Russ Dohrmann. Russ dedicated himself to ensuring Post 133 successes and accomplishments would carry on without interruption. Russ was a hands-on commander. No task that came his way was left unattended. Some of the highlights occurring during Russ's watch include providing over \$37,000.00 per year in direct support of needy veterans through Post 133 Veterans Resource Center; working with other Board members to arrange for veterans resource officer to be present at Post 133 Veterans Resource Center once a month; overseeing the Post move to Memorial Hall as the permanent meeting place (many hours of detailed coordination with the city); having the Post's first car show fund raiser; functioning as the face of the Post at the city and offices of elected officials at all levels of local government; coordinating all community events put on by the Post; providing community support in numerous other areas; meeting with a myriad of donors who provide exceptional treasure to the Post in the form of cash and other donations; and the list goes on! **THANK YOU, RUSS DOHRMANN, FOR AN OUTSTANDING TWO YEARS!**

At this point you may be asking yourself, "Who is Jim Ghormley?" I was in the US Army and the Army National Guard for 31 years. I flew Helicopters for 26 years. My flight time is the reason for my excellent hearing! I originally enlisted. After two years enlisted time, I went to Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in 1967. I served at all levels of command and staff up to division. I also served at the Pentagon. My overseas time was spent in the Far East. I have been married to my girlfriend Barbara for 55 years. We have two daughters and three grandchildren. My education includes two degrees from USC and a doctorate from the University of Phoenix. We live in Seal Beach.

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:

Bill Jeffords

Bob Laizure

Gary Robles

David Biegel



UNIT 133 AUXILIARY NEWS Tina Bauer President



Independence Day in Huntington Beach is the ultimate kick-off to summer! The 119th Huntington Beach 4th of July parade theme is "Surf City Soul", come join us as we watch and cheer the members of the American Legion Auxiliary Huntington Beach Post 133 proudly walk or ride in military vehicles, down Main Street. The parade tradition began on July 4, 1904 and our parade is the largest 4th of July parade west of the Mississippi. Even with over 150,000 people in attendance, there is still a small hometown feel of our beautiful Main Street Parade and the evening fireworks from the pier! The Red, White, and Blue patriotic colors are so abundant! What a wonderful way to celebrate the birthday of America with our unrivaled zest for Life, our passion for Liberty, and our gusto in the Pursuit of Happiness!

Remember we have our Patriotic Scarves available for a \$10.00 donation, an assortment of scarf rings, pins, and bracelets with a red/white/blue theme. The proceeds support our Veterans and their families, those currently serving, and programs benefitting our youth (Girls State) and our community.



On June 11, 2023, Post 133 and Unit 133 members participated in the 1st Annual Surf City Salute to The Flag, Women Veterans, and Welcome Home Tribute to Vietnam Veterans (50th Anniversary) at the HB Pier. Angel Force USA partnered with The City of Huntington Beach to educate and engage the community about resources to help Veterans dealing with mental health challenges, PTSD, and prevent veteran suicide. At our booth we partnered with representatives from the LBVAMC who provided information, resources, answered questions, and engaged in discussions about mental health, suicide prevention and access to benefits and services provided at the VA. In addition we shared information about the VRC and how the HB American Legion Family 133 supports and provides assistance to veterans and their families. We were the busiest booth at the event, interacting with over 50 Veterans. We also provided children with the American Legion comic book "Our Country's Flag. Post 133 participated in the opening ceremonies.



This year Post 133 and Unit 133 officers for 2023 – 2024 were installed on June 14, 2023 at a dinner meeting. It was well attended and provided the HB Legion Family members and guests an opportunity to share in both installations and then enjoy dinner conversations making new friends.

Summer weather is here and July is the beginning of our new membership year. Our 2023 - 2024 membership renewal will be mailed from National late summer. PLEASE NOTE: HB Unit 133 with Unit members at our meetings had many discussions this year regarding our dues amount as National raised their portion of dues beginning July 2023. Dues for senior members have increased to \$40.00 per year and junior members will remain \$5.00 per year. If you wish to renew early (prior to receiving your notice), the Unit 133 renewal for senior members is **\$40.00** and for junior members it is \$5.00. You may renew early with a payment by check - **Make your check payable to the American Legion Auxiliary HB 133**, and send to P.O. Box 133, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. If you prefer to pay with a credit card you need to wait until early - mid July; when the ALA National website has been updated - www.ALAforVeterans.org – to establish your on-line account you will see a link that states Renew. To set up your account - username will be your membership number which is located on your current card, set up a password and you will be good to go. Once you set up your account and pay on-line, every year you can renew paying with a credit card, your username and password will stay the same. Please contact me if you have questions about your membership status or are having trouble setting up you on-line access to renew your membership. Your continued support is important to the success of our Unit. Your generosity helps us to maintain the much needed support for our Veterans and their families.

Happy Birthday wishes to all our members who are celebrating their special day in July.

As a reminder, our Unit voted to go dark for July, August and December. Please remember that this applies to only our Unit 133 meetings; Post 133 will meet during those months. The next Unit 133 meeting will be September 13, 2023. Please watch future newsletters for details about events including: the monthly lunch social at 11:30 organized by Post 133 at various locations on the 4th Wednesday of the month and the annual picnic on Labor Day at Lake Park.

Thank you for your continued support and please contact me if you have any questions about membership, our programs, or upcoming events.

You can reach me at (714) 655-7333 or by e-mail at alahuntingtonbeachunit133@gmail.com

Tina Bauer, President

BOYS STATE

Building leadership qualities in our young citizens: Post 133 sponsored 4 Delegates to the BOYS/GIRLS State Conference, June 17 to June 24, 2023 held at the Cal. State University, Sacramento campus.

With the events going on in our country today, the need for our Americanism Programs is critical to our youth. In recent years, we have modified our message to: “The American Legion California Boys State is designed to replicate reality, without polarization, how our forefathers intended our system of government to function.

The Post selected 3 Edison High school juniors & 1 Huntington Beach High junior for the 2023 Boys State program: Edison junior classmen: Samson R., Drew L. & Dylan D., and Kai P. from Huntington Beach High.

Program participants are divided into subgroups referred to as cities. The citizens of each of these cities elect mock municipal officials and representatives to the mock state legislature. The legislature meets to organize, elect leaders, and to pass bills, in a way that is similar to how their actual state legislature--taking a more hands-on approach by running mock government activities all week.

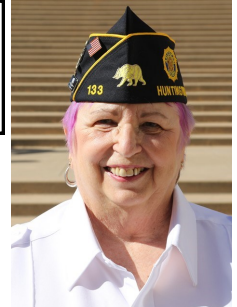
The [Samsung American Legion Scholarship](#) is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of American Legion Boys and Girls State.

2023 Boys State Delegates Drew L. & Dylan D. formed a Edison High club called “Helping Heroes” and they volunteered almost a hundred hours helping with the Veteran Resource Center at the Main Library, by doing “Buddy Calls” by calling hundreds of veterans and updating the Post website.

2021 Boys State Delegate and Post Oratorical 2nd place winner Brandon T. has finished his 1st year at the US Military Academy at West Point & he plans to be an officer in the Infantry.

2023 Boys State Delegate Samson is an accomplished Huntington City Beach Ocean Lifeguard Recruit & he has received the Chief’s Challenge Coin for being one of the top recruits & for representing the Social Awareness Pillar. He also participated in the “City Council for a Day” program, which is part of Edison High School’s student government, where Samson is its ASB President.

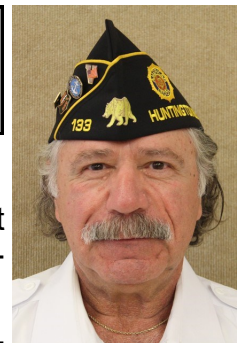
**1st Vice Commander
Elaine Parker**



MEMBERSHIP:

New year begins July 1. Legion will bill you for 2023-24 dues. You may renew online at www.legion.org/renew or by check. Make your check payable to American Legion POST 133 and mail to: American Legion Post 133, P.O. Box 133, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

**2nd Vice Commander
Frank Passarelli**



SOCIAL CALENDAR:

Brunch, July 1 at 9 AM at Longboard restaurant downtown.

Coffee: 9 AM July 17 and August 4 & 21 at McDonald’s, Goldenwest and Yorktown.

Fourth of July parade.

We will meet behind Ralph’s (Goldenwest and Garfield) at the loading dock at 7:30 AM. We leave for the parade route at 8:00 AM. We return to Ralph’s after the parade. Dress is short sleeve white meeting shirt and Legion cap.

WWII luncheon

It will be on August 14 at 11:30 AM at Mimi’s, 18461 Brookhurst St, Fountain Valley We will pay for our WWII members and guest. Others pay for our own luncheon.

Please RSVP to Bud DeWees at sideweessjr@yahoo.com, or call him at 714-801-4452.

The **Veteran Resource Center (VRC)** is open Monday thru Thursday 2-6pm, and Friday 9am-1pm. We also have a veteran service officer who visits the VRC once per month to help our veteran with benefit claims. This is by appointment only. Contact Frank Passarelli at 714-402-1923 for an appointment.



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



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Memorial Day Ceremony May 29, 2023

