

Veterans serving
Veterans for God
and Country

American Legion Post 44



The Gulf Post

Since 1958 "Friendliest Post in America"

January 2010

Message from the Commander

Wayne Stacey

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thanks to everyone – Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The Legion and our guests/friends -- for enabling Post 44 to have a very successful 2009. We did lose some veterans, family members and friends during this past year, but they will not be forgotten. However, we also gained a lot of new members and friends throughout the year, and we look forward to them helping Post 44 to have an even more successful 2010.

Many of our Northern friends have returned to spend some time with us and enjoy our warm temperatures and Southern hospitality. We are glad you are back with us, and hope you have a great time at Post 44 while you're in the area. We appreciate your support!!

In December we visited the Biloxi VA hospital to provide our veterans some Christmas spirit. It was a very enjoyable and invigorating experience, and is a reminder to us of why we serve. Thanks to the Auxiliary for organizing the trip and putting the veteran gift bags together, while The Legion provided canteen coupon books for the veterans. We hope we brightened their day and let them know they are not forgotten.

Thanks for supporting our various Post activities. The music by Roger and Elaine on Friday, Sunday and Tuesday continues to be a big hit! Chef Steve's great lunches and dinners have earned a great reputation, and brings many to our Post. Steak night continues to be strong, and our Thursday morning and Monday Bingo is growing. Your continued support of and participation in Post activities is essential us being able to support our veterans, their families and the community.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!!

District 33 Happenings

There will not be a District meeting in January due to the Mid-Winter Conference in Montgomery on JAN 15-16. The District meeting for February will be at Post 188 in Bay Minette on the 21st at 2:30 PM. It's time for Post 44 to take the attendance trophy again. I encourage all that can make it plan to meet at the Post at 1 PM to car pool or caravan.

Post 44 Officers

Commander Wayne Stacey
1st Vice Jay Nieves
2nd Vice Derrick Schieper
Adjutant Sonja Bankston
Membership Willie Schuck
Finance Officer Lloyd Hayes
Chaplain Jim Jent
Sgt-at-Arms Nate Ross
Service Officer Paul Knoch
Judge Advocate..... Vacant
Exec Committee: Joe Porter, Bill Odom & Donna Stacey
Bob Rankin (Past Commander)



Post 44 Needs You!!!

The first decade in the new millennium is over. It's been a bit of a roller coaster for Post 44. We saw our old Post destroyed by Hurricane Ivan and then the property sold and cleared. Membership waned a bit while Post 99 shared their space with us. Then we saw the development of our current Post home. Our membership is growing again, but Post support is inadequate. We see the same faces program after program doing the essential volunteer work. Many are getting to the "burn out" stage. There are over 600 Post, Auxiliary and Sons members. Now is the time for you to get involved. Ask what you can do for the Post. Just letting someone know that you can be called upon to help is a huge step in the right direction. This Post doesn't run by itself. It takes a team of volunteers to achieve success. Take the initiative this month to let someone on the executive committees know that you want to help.

Richard Washburn sends a super THANK YOU to all that contributed to his new, much warmer, home. This was a need that was supported by the American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

POST 44

January 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 at Post 44 Hot Lunch - Mon-Fri 11 AM - 2 PM Evening Specials Daily Mon-Thur 5 - 7 PM					5-7 PM Steak Night 1	2 Televised Sports On Giant Screen
3 4-8 PM - Music Musicman & Co.	4 6:30 PM - BINGO	5 6 PM - AL Exec Mtg 5-7 PM - Prime Rib 7 PM - Lucky Dog Draw 6-8 PM - Live Music	6 5-7 PM - Spaghetti Plate \$5 5:30 PM - Euchre Card Game	7 10:00-2:00 BINGO 5:30 PM - Aux Exec Mtg 6:30-8:30 PM Line Dancing	8 5-7 PM Steak Night 7-11 PM -Music Musicman & Co	9 Televised Sports on Giant Screen
10 4-8 PM - Music Musicman & Co.	11 6:30 PM - BINGO	12 6 PM - Post Mtg 5-7 PM - Prime Rib 7 PM - Lucky Dog Draw 6-8 PM - Live Music	13 5-7 PM - Spaghetti Plate \$5 5:30 PM - Euchre Card Game	14 10:00-2:00 BINGO 5:30 PM - Aux Mtg 6:30-8:30 PM Line Dancing	15 5-7 PM Steak Night 7-11 PM -Music Musicman & Co <i>Mid Winter Conf</i>	16 Televised Sports on Giant Screen <i>Mid Winter Conf</i>
17 4-8 PM - Music Musicman & Co.	18 6:30 PM - BINGO	19 5-7 PM - Prime Rib 7 PM - Lucky Dog Draw 6-8 PM - Live Music	20 5-7 PM - Spaghetti Plate \$5 5:30 PM - Euchre Card Game	21 10:00-2:00 BINGO 6:30-8:30 PM Line Dancing	22 5-7 PM Steak Night 7-11 PM -Music Musicman & Co	23 Televised Sports on Giant Screen
24 4-8 PM - Music Musicman & Co. 31 6 PM - Potluck Birthday Bash	25 6:30 PM - BINGO	26 5-7 PM - Prime Rib 6 PM - SAL Meeting 7 PM - Lucky Dog Draw 6-8 PM - Live Music	27 5-7 PM - Spaghetti Plate \$5 5:30 PM - Euchre Card Game	28 10:00-2:00 BINGO 6:30-8:30 PM Line Dancing	29 5-7 PM Steak Night 7-11 PM -Music Musicman & Co	30 Televised Sports on Giant Screen



The American Legion

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NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.103
GULF SHORES, AL
6542

Return Service Requested

Comments from the Auxiliary

Donna Stacey

WHEW!! What a busy month. I want to thank all that helped with the many events held in December. Dean Fazekas was the project manager for the visit to the Biloxi hospital. Also, thanks to the handful of volunteers that helped fill the gift bags. Wanda Reynolds was the project manager for the Retarded Citizens of Baldwin County Christmas Party at the Post. We also appreciate numerous volunteers that helped. Thanks to Jean Perry for taking care of the gifts collected at the Post Christmas party for local senior citizens. We appreciate those that helped orchestrate the meal as well. And last, our New Years Eve Party; we could have used a lot more help in decorating, but it got done. I want to give a big thanks to those that volunteered time to work on table center pieces, blow up balloons, set tables, etc. Unfortunately, we only had a handful to get a lot of work done in a short period of time. It's much more beneficial for members to sign up for participation. A lot of time and energy is wasted to calling and trying to find volunteers.

We're happy to have our Northern friends join us once again. We hope that you will be able to participate and help out with some of our activities.

We don't have a lot going on in January, but we need to use this time to prepare for the Post Mardi Gras party on FEB 16. We also have an opportunity to participate in local Mardi Gras parades by decorating and using the pontoon boat we had for Veterans Day. Both activities take volunteers to plan, prepare and take action to make the events successful. Let an executive committee member know if you can help.

We are also making plans to have a special Auxiliary event in February for women's heart health. February is American Heart Month. Heart disease is the number one killer of women. Let me know if you want to work on this event.

Our membership is currently at 70%. We still need 50 renewals or new members to reach our goal. I've posted names of members that have not renewed their membership for 2010. I encourage all members to take a look at the list and encourage your friends to get their memberships sent in. Your membership counts like a vote to politicians. They look at our member numbers to see how serious we really are in supporting veterans and veterans' issues.

The Auxiliary membership meeting this month will be Thursday, JAN 14 at 5:30 PM. We'll have a scavenger hunt that night. Come join the fun

Auxiliary Officers

- PresidentDonna Stacey
- 1st ViceJane Rankin
- 2nd ViceFelicia Linkous
- SecretaryValarie McKoon
- TreasurerJan Ling
- Chaplain Jean Scott
- Historian Vacant
- Sgt-at-ArmsDean Fazekas
- MembershipGayle White
- Members At Large: Karen Schuck, Pat Danvir & Jean Perry
- Finance Committee: Cecile Truss & Shari Stewart

Oratorical Speech Contest

The 72nd Annual National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is underway. We will conduct our Post contest in late January, followed by the Baldwin County and 33rd District competition in early February.

Each contestant must present a speech about the U.S. Constitution for 8 to 10 minutes. Then they'll have five minutes to prepare and present a second speech on one of four topics randomly selected during the contest. The second speech must be 3 to 5 minutes long.

The students are demonstrating their knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution and their ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently. These students are our future community, state and perhaps National leaders. The Department and National winners will receive scholarship money and other offerings from local colleges and universities.

We're privileged to have a good cross section of judges for all the oratorical events held here. The judges are teachers, clergy, councilmen, judges, and lawyers.

Many volunteers are needed to conduct these events. Contact Wayne Stacey, 968-2693, if you can help. Guests are welcome to come and observe the event. Also, since the contest is held at the Post on Saturday afternoon, we'd appreciate bar patrons keeping the noise down. We're proud to host these events for these students and their families.

Legion Membership

We have achieved 91% in membership so far, and are only a few renewals or new members from 100%. If you have not renewed for this year, please do so soonest to help Post 44 reach 100%. Remind others who may not have yet renewed.

Suggestion Box

Don't forget that we have a suggestion box near the band stand. Jot down your suggestions for consideration. We want to offer the programs that are of interest to most members. Membership participation and support of activities and events are essential.

Sons of the Legion Officers

- Commander.....Frank Bielicke
 - 1st Vice.....Paul Barefield
 - 2nd Vice.....Anthony Jones
 - Secretary.....Tony Dalton
 - Finance Officer.....Jimmy Eiland
 - Sgt-at-Arms.....Richard Washburn
- SAL meetings are the 4th Tuesday monthly, at 6 PM. Renew your 2010 membership now.