



# The Recorder



Vol.12, Issue 3,4,5

Don Diego V.F.W. Post 7420 Newsletter

November December January 2015-2016



## Post Commander

Comrades and Aux Members,

Since my initial letter to the membership, I have a lot to report. The fundraising events planned for a new roof these past couple months have been successful and helped us reach the half way mark of the estimates ranging from \$28k to \$32k we have received from contractors. There is still a lot of work and events aimed at raising the rest of the funds. We

have had a great outpouring of support from the community and of friends such as local radio personality Xavier the X-Man. Who has been helping me get the word out to the public through his radio show. We have welcomed seven (7) new members and one (1) transferred member during this quarter, all Iraq, Afghanistan veterans. New Post by-laws have been proposed and presented to membership for approval, and new House and canteen by-laws have been submitted to the house committee and awaiting final approval before being submitted to the general membership in the very near future for final review and vote.

We have setup our social media accounts in order to better inform and maintain the information flowing to the membership at all times. We have our new website running, and have filled it up with history, pictures, events and current information. My staff and I have been hard at work during this quarter to ensure we get our post back on track. I have listened, sat and heard all concerns from members within our post. I appreciate every piece of input, and will continue to do my best at resolving any and all issues. We are ready for the upcoming quarter and all challenges that might await us. We will continue to work together and remain transparent in our dealings and transactions.

I truly feel it is important for us to interact and get involved in our community. Provide opportunities for our young veterans to interact directly with each other and the people we are serving. Times have changed and we need to change and adapt to it. We must empower members who have good ideas, regardless of age or rank within the Post. To give them timely support to execute the plan, and not expect results within a week, we must be realistic on our efforts.

Be aware of an unwelcoming vibe, the VFWs stated mission is to foster camaraderie among US veterans of Foreign Wars. Do that for all of them, veterans no longer sound, act, or look a certain way. I first walked into Don Diego VFW in 2005 – just weeks after returning from Iraq. I was stopped at the door by the bartender and a member told me, “I couldn’t be in here.” It took me a minute to figure out that they didn’t think I was a veteran, my story is not unique or rare, it happens all the time across the nation. It is why I make it a purpose to welcome everyone at the post whether there old, or new members when I walk in. Greet every newcomer with a smile and

a welcoming attitude, and ask low-key discovery questions, instead of shouting out, “are you a member?” Open your mind; you may be surprised at the value they could bring to our post if they feel welcomed.

This post has a special place in my heart, I’m primarily writing this because I care what happens to this Post that has done so much good for so many people and is full of so much history. I don’t want it to fade into obscurity, not on my watch or any other commanders watch for that matter. It’s time to get out of the building and into the community. Join forces with other veteran organizations, put down the beer and pick up a shovel. Use social and traditional media to let our community or city know about the good work that we are doing .The time has come for change, and together we will move forward as brothers and sisters in arms.

Miguel Alatorre  
Post 7420 Commander



### **Auxiliary President**

Dear Sisters,

Constantly learning the workings of the Auxiliary to the Veteran's of Foreign Wars, which has been my experience these past months and will be in the months to come. I am humbled by the work that is accomplished by our Auxiliary and grateful to be a part of it.

In an ongoing effort to support our Comrades attending and promoting the roof fundraisers is high on my list. I had the honor and pleasure of joining our Commander at a Sunday taping of Radio Pulso del Barrio explaining the workings of our post and Auxiliary as well as promoting. Along with this attending two amazing and fun roof fundraisers. Kudos to our Commander for working so hard on these fundraisers with much success. Let's keep on supporting the effort.

October brought the Mexican Ancestry Dinner/Dance to our post. On behalf of our Auxiliary I presented a check in the amount of \$100 to them as well as baking 6 dozen cupcakes as a donation to their dessert table.

October brought my travel plans with friends to fruition however since becoming President of the Auxiliary I added another element to my travels. I sought out VFW Posts in the cities I was visiting. October 14 in Salem MA visited The Witch City Post 1524, presented them with our Don Diego Post 7420 sticker, October 16 in Philadelphia PA visited Captain William M Slowe

Post 3090 and presented them with a sticker also. We were well received at both posts and treated with the warmest of hospitality.

Membership is a continuing effort; thank you to all members who actively seek out and recruit new membership will keep our post vibrant and active allowing us to support the overall goals of The VFW.

As we come into November we think about Veteran's Day, family and holidays. I will be attending the flag raising ceremony at our Logan Heights Veterans Memorial in Chicano Park at 1100 hours. This memorial is very special as my late husband Raul worked on the Memorial committee for 4 years however he passed away six and a half months prior to its unveiling. We have six families to whom we will provide Thanksgiving baskets on November 21. Please come and help beginning at 9 am, you will have an opportunity to meet these families.

December third is our next Auxiliary meeting, we were dark in November. I encourage all to attend the 1st Annual Barrio Logan Music Festival being held at our Post on Saturday December 12th, 5 pm - 1 am.

I extend warmest wishes and blessing this holiday season.

Yours in service,  
Sara I Sandoval



### Auxiliary Chaplain



It is so sad right before the Holidays. We lost two of our Auxiliary Sisters; Sister Judy Contreras, who passed away October 11. She joined our Auxiliary November 1990 and became a Life member. Sister Judy donated much of her time

in committees such as Benefit Dinners and donations towards our Fundraisers.

Sister Sue Hamilton also passed away on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Sue joined our Auxiliary in March 1978 and became a life member November 2004. She was Auxiliary President 1981-1982, Auxiliary Secretary from 2007 2014. She was District Secretary 1987-88, 2009-2010. She had multiple Chairmanships on the Department. and District level. Our Heartfelt sympathy goes out to Walt Hamilton and Family in the loss of our beloved Auxiliary Sister and friend, Sue Hamilton and the Family of Our beloved Sister Judy Contreras.

Walt Hamilton's surgery went well, but he did have another complication.

## Thanksgiving Baskets



Now for the joy of the Holiday Events. We have six families from the “Neighborhood Family Health Center” they will be receiving the Thanksgiving” Baskets with all the trimmings on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 11am at our Post. Six Turkeys and all the trimmings have been donated by Auxiliary Members: Dana Cheigh, Edna Fugazzi, Selina Arreola-Gonzales, Stella Revelez Carmen Revelez, and Linda Vasquez. All the trimmings as follows; Hortencia Crespín, JoJo Trujillo, Socorro Willis, Honey Hawley, Mercy Gastelum, Marcella Smith, Madam President Sara Sandoval, Bea Mirelez, Bertha Gonzales, Delina Ruiz, Mary Ann Orozco, Gracie Lu Leyva, Olivia Solomon, And Madam Past Dept. President, Emma Lopez.



A Holiday Christmas Gift Card will be donated to six families

I, as Chaplain for twenty years have enjoyed my contribution to our Post and Auxiliary and look back at the many who contributed to these Holiday Events. We miss many of our Post and Auxiliary members who are no longer with us or who can no longer participate because of health issues.



I would like to commend Commander Miguel Alatorre and Madam President Sara Sandoval on the amazing job you are doing. Bravo to you both.

**OLE!!!!!!**

Sister Pat Cook we miss you”

Sincerely, Chaplain Olivia J. Solomon

[Olysolomon@cox.net](mailto:Olysolomon@cox.net) 619-265-8903





## Auxiliary Treasurer

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Right before I typed up this article, I prepared and mailed off the last dues reminders for 2016 to all you 2015 members who still need to pay for 2016.

Since last year, we no longer have reinstated members. If you fail to pay your dues and at a later date decide to rejoin, you'll need to start all over again. New application, provide proof of eligibility and then be voted on by the membership. You will also lose all the continuous years you have, be it 1, 5, 12, 45, etc. Don't let this happen to you.



**I must have your 2016 dues of \$28.00 by December 3, 2015. Because this is the way it works, I send your dues to our Department office in Sacramento; they send them off to the National office in Kansas, Mo. Department will be closed for the holidays December 15 to January 4, 2016, add in the usual December**

**holiday mail delays and now you understand why I must have them by December 3, 2015.**

So again, please pay your dues. Call me if I can help you in any way, I really don't want any of you to lose your continuous status.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Alicia Ketcham

858-748-8805

ketchme47@gmail.com



## Sunday Canteen Karaoke

From 4:00-9:00 p.m.



Don Diego VFW 7420 in conjunction with Real Dogg Entertainment Presents;



# JOKERS *Comedy*



  
**Manny Maldonado**



*Hosting*  
Charles Sanchez



Lil Rob Robledo



CISCO Luton



Chris Meza

*Saturday*  
**NOVEMBER 21TH, 2015**

Doors Open @ 6pm - 7pm Showtime



**Don Diego VFW Post 7420**  
2100 Logan Ave, San Diego CA, 92113



**Tickets: \$10 Donation**

For Ticket Info call 619-239-5373

21 & Over / 2 Drink Minimum



# 1st District 2015



## VOD and Patriots Pen Luncheon

**WHERE:** Carter-Smith VFW Post 5867  
12650 Lindo Lane  
Lakeside CA 92040-4212

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 12, 2015

**BUFFET LUNCHEON:** 11:00am

**AWARDS CEREMONY:** 12:30pm

**MENU:** ¼ Baked Chicken  
French Roasted Potatoes  
Balsamic Carrots  
Dinner Roll & Butter  
Dessert

**COST:** \$15:00 per person



**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2015**



**1ST DISTRICT VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY  
VOD & PATRIOTS PEN AWARDS LUNCHEON RESERVATION**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Aux: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost per person - \$15.00 by November 30, 2015.

Please make checks payable to:  
1st District VFW (MEMO: VODIPP)

Mail check and Reservations to

**DIANA KULHANEK**  
8733 VIA DIEGO COURT

LAKESIDE CA 92040

(619) 701-9733

Email: [dtrudo@yahoo.com](mailto:dtrudo@yahoo.com)



Don Diego VFW 7420 in conjunction with The B-Side Players present:

# 1ST ANNUAL BARRIO LOGAN



# MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday Dec 12th, 2015 5:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Don Diego VFW Post 7420

2100 Logan Ave- San Diego, CA 92113

Tickets: \$25 Donation