



"Keeping Our Shores Safe"

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Edition #1-February 2021

Veterans of Foreign Wars California District 10 Post and Auxiliary Newsletter



COMMANDER & PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the first edition of the Lighthouse. We wanted to produce a newsletter for District 10 to provide a forum to pass on information from Department, and for Posts and Auxiliaries to let everyone in the District know what's happening.

If you would like to share your upcoming or past events or activities, please submit your articles and pictures via email to Coachsteiny@msn.com with the subject line "Lighthouse" and your Post or Auxiliary number.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month.

We look forward to seeing what we can do with this new newsletter.

Mark Steinberg, Commander

Helen Steinberg President

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN

On January 30, Department of California announced the state winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests. It was an amazing result for us as both winners were sponsored by Posts in District 10.

The quality and volume of submissions was extremely high this year, with 12 of 15 posts submitting entries. Thank you all for your hard work in promoting these programs.

Introducing our winners.....



Voice of Democracy winner Claire Kane a senior from Discovery Bay who was sponsored by Post 10789 (Brentwood).

Patriots Pen winner Christian Woo, a 7th grader from Orinda who was sponsored

by Post 8063 (Lafayette).

Both Claire and Christian will now go on to represent California in the National contest in March.

PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

There is still time to submit entries for the Auxiliary Patriotic Art Contest. Deadline to get entries to one of our Auxiliaries is March 31, 2021. If your post doesn't have an Auxiliary please contact Mark Steinberg and he will provide you with contact details.

The contest is for 9-12 graders and submissions can be 2 or 3 dimensional art pieces in a variety of mediums. Full contest rules can be found at [Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest - VFW Auxiliary](#).

STAND DOWN ON THE DELTA

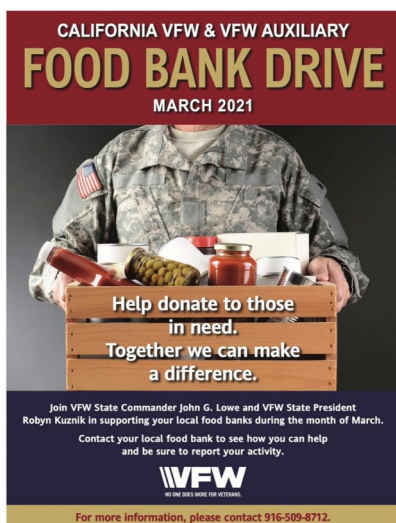
COVID restrictions allowing, the Stand Down on the Delta is scheduled to be held (in some form) September 10-13 at the Antioch Fairgrounds. Many District 10 posts already support this event either by donating or volunteering time and I encourage you to continue doing that or to consider adding your support. The Stand Down will be needed more than ever this year due to the impacts of COVID on Veterans in need and their families and also because the East Bay Stand Down which occurs on alternating years had to be cancelled in 2020. Post 6435 (Antioch) is very hands on with this event and will hopefully keep us informed as to how we can help.

USS OAKLAND COMMISSIONING

The USS Oakland, a Littoral Combat Ship, will be commissioned on April 17, 2021 at Howard Terminal near Jack London square in Oakland. Information about becoming a donor can be found at [USS Oakland Commissioning](#)



DISTRICT 10 FOOD DRIVE



Checks should be made payable directly to Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. If your post would like to hold a drive for physical goods we will arrange a one time pick up for each Post at a mutually convenient time and place. Please let Mark or Helen Steinberg know by end February if you plan to do this so that we have time to plan for pick ups. All collected goods and donations will be delivered to the food bank on behalf of the District in mid-late March.

DISTRICT 10 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



AnneMarie Talmadge of De La Salle in Concord was selected as D10 High School Teacher of the year. AnneMarie, a history teacher, encourages her pupils to interview local veterans to raise their awareness. The transcripts of the interviews are sent to the Library of Congress.

Kimberly Sudweeks from Adams Middle School in Brentwood was selected as D10 Middle School Teacher of the Year. Kimberly is advisor to the school's Service Above Self Club which has conducted several projects to benefit Veterans. Amongst other things they collected snacks and socks to send to Veterans and wrote greeting cards for Veterans at Yountville. In addition, her students upcycle used plastic shopping bags into sleeping mattresses for the homeless.



We did not get many submissions for Teacher of the Year

this year. I hope that we can see more in the future. This is a great way to recognize the contributions of the teachers in our communities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMT/FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

I am sad to say that we didn't not have any submissions for Law Enforcement/EMT/Firefighter of the year. Given how much we have relied on such people in 2020 with wildfires, riots, and COVID I hope that we can be more proactive this year in seeking out some worthy nominees. I know they are out there!

AUXILIARY BUDDY POPPY CONTEST

The photo of a lighthouse at the top of this newsletter was the D10 entry into the Auxiliary Department's Buddy Poppy Contest. Over 500 poppies were used to create the sea.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Reminder that entries are due to Posts by March 1.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

I was honored to be able to present certificates of recognition from the VFW Department of California to two special Veterans recently. They were each given a drive by birthday parade by family



and friends.

Pearl Harbor survivor **Earl "Chuck" Kohler** from Concord celebrated his 97th birthday. His birthday cake featured a photo of Ford Island where he was working when the first bomb hit.

Sam Avolicino a WWII and Army of Occupation Veteran from San Ramon turned 100. Sam and other residents in his senior living facility enjoyed the parade and the opera singer who serenade everyone!



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Please join me in congratulating Post 6435 (Antioch) and Post 6298 (Pleasanton) on their 75 years of service to local Veterans. This significant milestone is reached in March!

MEMBERSHIP

Through the end of January D10 was #1 in membership percentage. Unfortunately since then we have slipped to #3 (albeit a close third). I know it's tough when we aren't out and about, but please do what you can to recruit new members and retain existing ones. Maintaining our membership levels ensures that we keep our ability to lobby for new legislation and other advocacy efforts at the National level.

A friendly reminder to any annual members that haven't yet renewed their membership, now is the time to do that. Even better, consider converting to a life member.

The VFW Department of California is currently holding a Purple Heart/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom membership Campaign.

- 1) If a prospective member is either a Purple Heart recipient or a Veteran of Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom campaigns then the Department will pay for their first year of dues.
- 2) If you are an existing annual member and a Purple Heart recipient, then upon proof of your medal, Department will enter your name into a monthly drawing to convert you to a life member.

OFFICER CHANGES

VFW

Brent Austin has accepted the role of D10 quartermaster and will replace Tim Eng who is leaving the area. Tim recently replaced long time Quartermaster Patrick Leary.

AUXILIARY

Candy Wullenweber has accepted the open position of D10 trustee.

UPCOMING/IMPORTANT DATES

19 February—Coast Guard Reserves Birthday

1 March—Scout of the Year entries due to Posts

3 March—Navy Reserves Birthday

25 March—National Medal of Honor Day

30 March—Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

31 March—Deadline for Patriotic Art submissions

18 April—District 10 Post and Auxiliary meeting (official visit) at Concord Veterans Hall (COVID restrictions willing).

10-13 September—Stand Down on the Delta

IN MEMORIAM

- * Stanley Kamiya— Post 4618 (Chinatown). Aug 21, 1953-Dec 12, 2021
- * Carl Petersdorf — Post 1525 (Concord), last Commander of the former Pinole Post. Oct. 6, 1919-Jan 8, 2021

Please continue to send notifications of deceased members to D10 Chaplains Jim Uhlik (VFW) or Dara Wong (Auxiliary).

FOR THE NEXT ISSUE.....SEND IN

- Any items of interest. Things you have done or are planning to do
- Ideas on how to conduct Poppy Drives or recognize Memorial Day safely given COVID restrictions
- Questions for D10 officers

UNTIL NEXT TIME.....STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

Many of us are in the high risk group for COVID whether due to age or existing medical conditions. If you haven't already, I encourage you to contact your medical provider or local VA facility to discuss your options for getting a vaccination.

Some of our more elderly members may not have access to computers to make online appointments. Please reach out to them to see if they need assistance.

USEFUL LINKS

VFW Websites: [The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. - VFW](#) (national) or [vfwca.org](#) (Dept. of California)

Auxiliary websites: [vfwauxiliary.org](#) (national) or [vfwauxca.org](#) (Department of California)

Commander Mark Steinberg or President Helen Steinberg e-mail: coachsteiny@msn.com

Adjutant Bill Lew e-mail ca.vfw.dist.10@gmail.com

Facebook Page: [\(1\) Veterans of Foreign Wars District 10 Department of California | Facebook](#)