

THE DURANGO PATRIOT VFW POST 4031

Post Calendar

REGULAR POST 4031 MEETINGS –

2nd WED 6pm

REGULAR Ladies AUXILIARY MTG –

3rd SUN 1pm

REGULAR Men's AUXILIARY MTG –

2nd TUE 6PM

Phone Numbers

La Plata County Veterans Service Officer
970-759-0117

VA Clinic 970-247-2214

DAV Transportation Program - 970-442-0149

VFW POST 4031—970-247-0384

FAX—970-247-3145

EMAIL:VFW4031@BRESNAN.NET

VFW POST 4031

1550 MAIN

VETERANS DAY

The Veterans Day Parade will be held in Durango at 11AM, November 11th. An open house will be held immediately after the parade at the Post at 1550 Main Ave.

All veterans are encouraged to participate. Floats will be available for those who need to ride.

A Brief History of Veterans Day

Veterans Day, formerly known as **Armistice Day**, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, the **Uniforms Holiday Bill** ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. Under this bill, Veterans Day was moved to the last Monday of October. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971.

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11.

MEN'S AUXILIARY

A NEW RIFLE RAFFLE WILL BE STARTING IN MID OCTOBER AND RUN THROUGH DECEMBER-----THIS RIFLE WILL TRULY BE A ONE OF THE KIND-----IT IS A 357 MAGNUM HENRY BIG BOY THAT IS CURRENTLY AT THE ENGRAVERS-----TICKETS WILL BE \$ 5.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$25.00-----WATCH FOR THE NEW CASE AND BE PREPARED TO BE AMAZED-----SECOND PRIZE WILL BE A NICE SET OF BINOCULARS.

LADIES AUXILIARY

HOMELAKE VETERAN'S HOME TRIP (El Monte, CO) September 9,10,11, 2011

THANKS TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO DONATED ITEMS, DONATED MONEY, HELPED LOAD THE TRAILOR AND HELPED PREPARE THE ITEMS TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

There were three Post members and four Auxiliary members who traveled to Homelake for the Summerfest Celebration. This year we had so many items of clothing, etc. we maintained TWO booths, one for ladies and one for men. The Auxiliary members had assembled packets of snacks, writing material, etc. which were given to each veteran. There were many books including a complete encyclopedia set of World War II, which the library was thrilled to have. It was very rewarding to be able to give each veteran things that they could use and/or needed. The Post, the Auxiliary, and Wal Mart each donated cash which was spent on underwear, socks, jackets, shirts, caps, scarves, writing material, snacks and much more. All who went and worked were inspired and want to go again next year. REMEMBER, if you want to go and help, you must pay your own expenses. PS We already have donations for next year.

AUXILIARY FUND RAISING DANCE, SEPT. 17

THE WESTERN FUND RAISING DANCE, SPONSORED BY THE LADIES AUXILIARY WAS A SUCCESS AGAIN THIS YEAR.

Thanks to all those who donated money, food, prizes, time decorating, working the food table, cleaning up after the festivities, etc. etc. Everyone worked. Special thanks to Nancy Johnson and Dolly Child who co-chaired the whole event. The two of them also did a wonderful job of giving out door prizes, and handling all phases of the raffles. The Western band was great, the dancing was great, the food was great, the prizes were great and the visits with friends the best. Plan to attend again next year.

For only \$10.00 per month (business card size) your advertisement in this space would help the Post to offset the cost of providing this newsletter.

Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen

Now is the time to encourage all your relatives, friends, etc. to have their siblings enter the above.

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Patriot's Pen gives 6th, 7th and 8th grade students the opportunity to express their opinion on a patriotic theme and improve their writing skills, while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. Department (state) winners compete for \$75,500 in U.S. Savings Bonds at the national level with the winner receiving a \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond during the VFW/Ladies Auxiliary Community Service Conference in Washington, D.C., in March each year.

Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) started the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition in 1946. The Veterans of Foreign Wars became a national sponsor in the late 1950s and assumed sole responsibility for the program in 1961. Many notables have participated in the Voice of Democracy including journalist Charles Kuralt, Miss America, Anita Bryant and former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The Voice of Democracy competition provides high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to write and record a broadcast script on a patriotic theme, competing for more than \$2.3 million in college scholarships and incentives. Department (state) winners are brought to Washington, D.C., during the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Community Service Conference in March to enjoy our nation's capital and compete for \$146,000 in scholarships — first place receiving a \$30,000 scholarship.

Entry forms are available at the Post or online at VFW.org and must be submitted to the post by November 1, 2011. The post will then select a winner that will compete with other VFW's in District 12. The District 12 winner will then compete at the state level with all the other district winners. (13 Districts), The state winners will then go on to nationals and compete against all the other state winners.

BLUE STAR MOTHERS

Blue Star Mothers are busy preparing for our Gold Star Weekend in Estes Park, September 23-25th. We will be hosting over 50 Gold Star families from the state of Colorado. Each family has lost a son or daughter in one of the past two wars. It is our honor to remember each of their children and show our support for them and keep their children always in our thoughts. These families are inspiring to each of us who attend the weekend. They are so appreciative of this weekend knowing their children are not forgotten.

We are still working on our move to the VFW. We hope that will happen after the weekend in Estes Park. We look forward to sharing times at the VFW and appreciate your caring and support of our small organization.

Thank you from all of us,

HANDICAP ACCESS

Tony Meador, President of the VFW Post 4031 Men's Auxiliary brought in J.D. Coyne to meet with Bill Morris, Nick Yonker, Mac McInnis and Joe Perino to explore avenues for grant applications to fund the Elevator project. At this time we will begin to start gathering the necessary information to be included in a grant application. One of the things will be to have a contractor estimate to complete it as a turn-key project. Help will be sought from members to assist with various components of putting the project together. David Latham Post Senior -Vice Commander is continuing to explore potential avenues to fund the project.

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FROM THE **QUARTERMASTER**

After the merger of VFW Post 9695 into VFW Post 4031 the Post now contains a total of 289 members. This consists of 227 Life Members, 11 Continuous Members, 1 Reinstated Member and 50 Unpaid Members for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012. If you are an unpaid member please submit your dues as your membership is very important to not only yourself but also to your comrades. There are many benefits available to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

On September 20, 2011 Bill Morris, Joe Perino, Fred Riedinger and Nick Yonker traveled to Pagosa Springs to meet with Tom Broadbent former Commander of the Pagosa Springs Post and now Life Member of Post 4031 to begin the transfer of the assets to Post 4031. The Pagosa Springs Post consisted of a double wide trailer set on two lots on a rim overlooking a valley. The facility does not have any utilities hooked up to it so there is no requirement to winterize it before winter. Electricity, Natural Gas, Domestic Water, Sewer Service and Telephone all are currently on the lots. As time goes by a decision will be made as to the disposition of the Pagosa property. Future trips will be required to gather additional records and other things that will occur.

The Post has lost two life members since the last newsletter. The two members were Eloy D Quintana and Terrence "Terry" W. Norton. Eloy was one of the Original members of Post 4031 who was part of the crew that built the Post home.

Mac McInnis, Joe Perino, Fred Riedinger, Clark Cunningham, Lee Bell, Dean Reynal, Jessie Kendrick, Bert LaComb, Jim Farmer, Darrell Mir, Norris "Buck" Nevils and Steve "Eskimo" Vaudreuil supported a Military Service for Life Member Terrence "Terry" Norton September 24, 2011 in the yard on the North side of the Post Home. Mr. Norton who was in the US Army served in Vietnam and received an honorable discharge with numerous medals, including a Bronze Star.

Earlier during the summer a change was made due to the economy to open the Club at 2:00 PM instead of 11:00 AM on Monday through Thursdays but to continue opening at 11:00 AM on Friday Saturday and Sundays. Additionally, the concept of having a Happy Hour on Monday through Friday afternoons was also put in place. The result of the changes did not do anything to improve, change or make any difference in the operation. Based on these results, starting the week of September 18, 2011 the Club hours will go back to opening each day at 11:00 AM and for the time being Happy Hour will no longer be held. There has never been a set time for closing the Club at night. The position of the Board of Directors is that the Club would remain open until 9:00 PM and beyond that would depend on at least three customers in the Bar who are consuming alcoholic beverages. It may be necessary to review setting a closing time for certain days of the week in the future. Karaoke will continue to be held every Friday evening beginning at 6:30 PM. Come in and bring your friends to enjoy the facility, sing during Karaoke and renew or make new friendships. It is important that all members come into to the Post once in awhile to see what is going on and to see some of the improvements that we are trying to make. Also, we hope to see you at a Post Meeting as we feel that your input is important. I look forward to seeing you at a future meeting.

In Comradeship - Joe Perino

FACILITY **IMPROVEMENTS**

Nick Yonker has spoke to the Blue Star Mothers about meeting with him so that he could show them where they could store their materials until a more permanent space can be constructed in the storage room. This will allow them to vacate the space that the American Legion wants to use for some other purpose.

The list of projects to accommodate the findings of the Fire Marshall is continuing to be developed and will be shared with the members of the Post at a future meeting. Some of the fixes are minor and can be quickly accomplished while others will be much more difficult.

October 2011 VFW Post 4031

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Karaoke 6:30 PM	8
9	10	11 MENS AUXILIARY MEETING 6 PM	12 POST MEETING 6PM	13	14 Karaoke 6:30 PM	15
16 LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING 1 PM	17	18	19	20	21 Karaoke 6:30 PM	22 National "Make a Difference Day"
23	24	25	26	27 NAVY DAY	28 Karaoke 6:30 PM	29
30	31					