



# Moorpark Post 502

The American Legion • Sixteenth District •

Aug / Sept 2008

## Commander's Message

### Jim Carpenter

American Legion Post 502 Commander

Greetings again to all my fellow Legionnaires;

Well, June and July certainly went by quickly! I want to share with you the many events and happenings that took place during these months.

### New Chaplain:

I am very pleased to announce that JOHN BICKERSTAFF has stepped forward and agreed to be our Post Chaplain. This is great news as I know John will do a great job.

### June:

Once again officers of your Post had the privilege of honoring the top two students at each of Moorpark's middle and high school graduation ceremonies. What a rewarding experience this is, we have some really terrific young people and great teachers behind them keeping them inspired.

The 90<sup>th</sup> Department Annual Convention in Bakersfield, CA was attended by your Adjutant (Pete) and I to represent our post at this 5 day event during which the new officers were elected for next year and final reports were presented for the activities of the previous year. Conventions are the source of a great deal of

information and a great opportunity to meet terrific comrades from all over our state.

During the convention we quickly returned Friday evening to present the colors at a special showing of the film "Overlord" at the High Street Theater which was sponsored by The City of Moorpark. We then returned to Bakersfield and the convention.

### July:

Of course, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireworks Show and Independence Day celebration. Our Post had a booth (manned by Pete & John Kress) to give away American Flags, sell raffle tickets for the T-6 airplane ride and increase community awareness of our Post. Good job guys!

The La Societe (40/8) Grande Promenade (Convention) in San Diego was also attended by Pete and me as delegates for the Ventura County Voiture 109. This 3 day event is also where new officers are elected for the next year; final reports are discussed and submitted and is the source of overall program information. As with The American Legion convention it is a great opportunity to meet fellow comrades.

### Membership:

( I know, I know, it's the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice's job; but I have to say something anyway.)

As you all know by now National has sent out the 2009 membership renewal notices.

This may seem to be early but there is a lot of work to be done by both the Department of California and National offices to have these all processed before the end of this year.

Another reason is that the new dollars coming in allows the state and national committees to start planning for next years program benefits knowing that funds are becoming available, this is important.

So, let's show our support of the Post and help our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander (Jim Beaver) by sending in your membership renewals as soon as you can We have proudly achieved 100% plus status for the past two years; let's make it three in a row.

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## Commander's Message

### Continuous Membership:

Apparently there was some confusion with the last newsletter when I was attempting to recognize the members who have been with us for at least 10 years or more, therefore I will list them again in a different manner.

**Almeida**, Carlos (19)- - **Barrera**, Gildardo (19)- - **Barrera**, Paul (10)- - **Barrera**, Robert (24)- - **Beaver**, James (25)- - **Berriman**, John (13)- - **Brandriff**, Victor (14) - - **Braulieu**, Raymond (17)- - **Bull**, Larry (18)- - **Cabriales**, Eulalio (22)- - **Cabriales**, Gary (15)- - **Catrambone**, Joseph (12)- - **Chavez**, David (11)- - **Cruz**, Leonard (43 way to go Leonard!!!)- - **Davidson**, Marshall (15)- - **Duarte**, William (22)- - **Duncan**, Peter (22)- - **Fuguay**, Kenneth (20)- - **Gushwa**, Martin (13)- - **Hall**, James (14)- - **Hutchinson**, Dudley (17)- - **Kirkbride**, Walter (32)- - **Kress**, John (19)- - **Miller**, Barton (43 way to go Barton!!!)- - **Newton**, John (35)- - **Paredes**, George (13)- - **Peters**, Brett (14)- - **Peters**, Edward (23)- - **Polito**, John (13)- - **Thomas**, Bruce (11) and **Valenza**, Sam (40 way to go Sam !!!).

FANTASTIC !!

(If I missed anyone please speak up. Remember, this is continuous years, if you miss a year the count starts over.)

[Congratulations to you all](#), you make me proud to be a part of Post 502!

It is continuous membership that keeps the veterans' support programs on track!

### FOOD & FUN:

**We are going to have a joint Post & Unit BBQ Dinner / Social on September 28 !**

### BE SURE TO READ THE ATTACHED FLIER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

( There will be a special treat for **EARLY BIRD** members, check it out!!!!)

I hope to see you all at our next Post Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> in the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce building located at High Street & Moorpark Ave., 1900 hrs. (7:00 pm). We will be discussing changing the Veterans Day Ceremony from Poindexter Park to the site of the New Veterans Memorial

Jim Carpenter  
Commander

## Calendar

### July

3 – Thurs: City of Moorpark 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Fireworks Extravaganza

8 – Tue: Post Meeting 7:00 PM

### August

12 – Tue: Post Meeting

### September

9 – Tue: Post Meeting 7:00 PM

28 – Sun: Post 502, Unit 502 BBQ / Social

### October

4 – Sat: Moorpark Country Days

14 – Tue: Post Meeting 7:00 PM

### November

7 thru 9 – Civil War Re-enactment.

10 – Tue: Post Meeting 7:00 PM

11 – Wed: Veterans Day

## Post 502 Officers

### Moorpark Post 502 Officers

Commander Jim Carpenter (805) 523-7721

1st Vice Commander Jim Beaver (805) 529-1848

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander John Kress (805) 523-2828

Adjutant Pete Duncan (805) 529-0215

Chaplain John Bickerstaff (805) 529-0523

Web Master / Service Officer Kevin Panet  
(805) 991-7431

# Adjutant's Report

**Pete Duncan**

American Legion Post 502 Adjutant

The transition for Post Officers proved to be a smooth one; your Post never slowed down. Commander Carpenter's first order of business was to layout the next twelve months and assure that our cash flow improves, "We are operating on a shoestring with much uncertainty," the Commander remarked after assuming office. He went on to say that, "we must improve our ways and means or decide which projects may have to be scaled back; this is not the way to start out a new Legion year." Jim hit the ground running attending the Department Convention in Bakersfield, the 40 & 8 Grand Promenade in San Diego, various Sixteenth District Meetings, Ventura County Council where he was elected Second Vice Commander and appointed Treasurer of Ventura Voiture 109 of the 40 & 8. Jim also received an award from the Moorpark Rotary in recognition of his volunteer service to the Community. Pictured below is Jim (l), Rotary President, Bruce Thomas (c) and Rotary District Governor, Anil Garg (r).



First Vice Commander, Jim Beaver, is taking membership very seriously. Once again, the transition is progressing smoothly and Jim is making sure that as dues are received, they get top priority and the necessary paperwork is sent in to Department posthaste including necessary per capita payments.

Often, the question comes up, what difference will my dues make at the Post? Financially, the margin is slim. Of your \$25.00 you send in, 21.50 is divided up between the State and National leaving the Post with 3.50. Can't do much with that; doesn't even cover the cost of the newsletter. However, if we step back and look at the bigger picture we see that your individual membership, when viewed collectively with the rest of the Post and then multiplied by the 500+ posts in Department of

California and then added to all the other Department around the world, well, we now have something that piques the interest of others. We can now move mountains if we choose, and don't think we haven't. The GI Bills stands testimony to what our numbers reflect. Don't ever think your membership in Post 502 is insignificant.

Another question that rears its ugly head is, "I never served in a combat zone, I don't feel I am qualified to be a member." Ouch! Being a member of The American Legion is predicated on when you served, not where you served. In the VFW, it does make a difference; we are not the VFW. Besides, you may not have realized it, but at any time, Uncle Sam could have picked you up and sent you anywhere he wanted you to be. You were standing in formation and at any time, Unc could have sent you packing. Do not short change your service to Country by believing you do not deserve the same considerations as someone, standing in that same formation, who was picked before your turn came up. For those of you who volunteered and stepped forward, I salute you! You made it possible for another to serve their County out of harms way. Both are honorable.

Pictured below is First Vice Commander James Beaver at our last Post meeting at the Chamber of Commerce on High Street. Jim is a long time member of the Post and willing to tackle any job handed off to him. Our membership is in good hands thanks to Jim Beaver and, especially because of you!



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## Adjutant's Report

John Kress, Second Vice Commander seen here with Joe Catrambone, Past Post Commander, share a moment after a meeting to exchange ideas for future fundraising for the Post. John, another long time member of the Post has agreed to work with Joe to help improve the ways and means. They are off to a great start with the third 'Soar with the Eagles Plane Ride'.



FYI:

Recently we had a little contest with the Newsletter, Find the ♦. Well, we received many emails and telephone calls identifying the location of the diamond. I was a little overwhelmed and everyone participating found it. My first thought was, it was too easy. But more importantly, it was testimony to the fact that our Newsletter, is indeed, read by many and I thank you for taking part.

First Vice Commander, Jim Beaver is Editor and he has been doing an excellent job keeping it going. The newsletter is open to your comments and I ask that you feel free to email to the Editor any thoughts you may have. However, remember, space can be limited and the Editor has editorial control over all submissions. One thing we would really like to hear about is what we can do to make the Post more in tune with what you believe we should be doing. If you don't want to write about it, come to one of our meeting and tell us about it. It's still the second Tuesday of the month. We meet at the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce on the corner of High Street and Moorpark Avenue, 7:00 P.M.

A special thank you is in order for L. J. Stevens, General Manager of the High Street Arts Center. It

was through her office that we were able to provide the prizes for the winner of our find the ♦ contest. If you have not had an opportunity to attend a performance or event at the HSAC, I would encourage you to spend a pleasant afternoon at 45 E. High Street, Moorpark, California. Their telephone number is 805-529-8700 or you can visit them on the World Wide Web at [www.highstreetartscenter.com/](http://www.highstreetartscenter.com/).

Pete Duncan  
Adjutant



Post 502 Commander Jim Carpenter with Boys State winner Brandon Rokos the the Aug. 12 meeting where Brandon made an informative presentation about his experiences as a delegate to Boys State. Photo by Jim Beaver

## Editor's Comments

### Jim Beaver

American Legion Post 502 1st Vice Commander

Since being elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander for Post 502 some of my duties have ~~changed~~ increased. I have now taken over the membership responsibility and all the duties that entail. Commander Carpenter wasted no time in getting me online, processing the paperwork that goes with the job. Please send in your membership dues renewals as soon as possible. Why is that important? One reason is that all members who have an "Early Bird" stamp on their member ID card will be entitled to attend the Post / Unit BBQ without charge on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you all there eating for free.

As editor of the Post 502 Newsletter I encourage your input on what you like about your newsletter and please comment on ways that it can be improved. You can contact me a [JBeaver8414@yahoo.com](mailto:JBeaver8414@yahoo.com) or phone me at 805 529-1848.

# American Legion Auxiliary

## Unit 502

### Faye Beaver

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 502 Membership Chairman

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen,

Just a note to let you know the Auxiliary priorities for 2008 – 2009 continue to be:

- The Veteran Lap Robe Program
- Girl State Program
- Children's Education
- Working with the Post on Memorial and Veterans Day Ceremonies.

The Auxiliary is looking forward to the joint BBQ on September 28, 2008. We will also have a booth for Moorpark Country Days. Please come out and enjoy these functions.

As always we need new members, and for those that have not sent in your renewal, please do so, we have a chance of winning the Department of CA Early Bird contest.

Thank you for all you do,

Sincerely,  
Faye Beaver

### Unit 502 Board Members

Pat Miranda	President
Debbie Heaslip	Vice President
Yvonne Di Francesco	Secretary
Faye Beaver	Treasurer
Bonnie Vargas	Chaplain



Unit 502 member Miranda Heaslip prepares for her flight as winner of 2007 Post 502 "Soar with the Eagles" raffle.



Jim Carpenter calls to order the first meeting as Commander of Post 502. To his right is Adjutant Pete Duncan. To his immediate left is Chaplain John Bickerstaff and to his far left is 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander John Kress. Photo by Jim Beaver.

**September 28<sup>th</sup>**



**BBQ**



**"Early Birds" Eat Free**

The American Legion  
Moorpark Post 502  
PO Box 156  
Moorpark, CA 93020-0156

POSTAGE HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address

# A Message of Interest From The American Legion Moorpark Post 502

Inside: Calendar of events. Commander's Message, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> BBQ info, Early Birds Free!

Visit Our Website at  
[www.moorparkpost502.org](http://www.moorparkpost502.org)