

Centennial Post 209

Edited version

P.O. Box 15461 Colorado Springs, CO 80935

Legionnaires,

It seems as if we are destined not the have a regular scheduled meeting this year, but we aren't going to stop trying. In spite of these temporary setbacks we are having an outstanding year overall.

We can be very proud of our efforts in membership. We reached our membership goal of 100 members in December 1986. At the present time we are at 112% membership and still increasing. If you haven't recruited a new member, who not do it now and help us reach our new goal of 150% by Department Convention in Cortez in June 1987. We can also be very proud of the success of our bingo game. We could sure use some additional help at our weekly bingo game. Why not plan to help out this year and push all of our programs over the top.

We are coming up on elections very shortly, so if you desire to fill an office, let your wishes be known. This post can be as great as you decide to make it, so plan now to get involved. Looking forward to seeing you at the monthly regularly scheduled Post meeting 19 March 1987.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
NEAL L. THOMAS JR. - COMMANDER

VA Toughens Home Loan Policies

Following congressional criticism regarding the number of loans on which veterans have defaulted. The Veterans Administration has established new rules. Applications for a VA loan must now meet two income tests to qualify.

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These new guide lines cannot guarantee against loan defaulting in areas hit by unusual economic experiences such as those affecting the oil and agriculture industries. Significant numbers of defaulted loans were held by veterans employed in those industries.

Veterans Face Continued Challenges in New Congress

With the 1986 elections now a matter of history, the 100th Congress convened on January 6th. There are many new faces in both The House and Senate, but the agenda for The American Legion remains the same as it has been for the last several years. That agenda, in it's simplest terms is to protect veterans programs from budgetary damage while simultanously assuring sufficient defense funding to protect the nations security.

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Vietnam veterans and disabled veterans in business have opportunities to have The Veterans Administration as one of their customers.

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For further information on the VA's procurement process, or to request the necessary SF 129, write to the Deputy Director, Office of Small or Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OOSC), Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Ave, N.W, Washington, D.C. 20420.

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Thomas K. Trunage, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, discussed the effect of a proposed \$550 million increase in the VA Budget. Despite the increase the VA is going forward with plans to cut 2,500-3,000 full time equivalent employees from the payroll, in keeping with recent trends toward trimming the work force.

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FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY - JUNE THOMAS, PRESIDENT

Ladies:

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Since Mother Nature has seen fit to cancel our January and February meetings we are getting behind in our obligations. I had an Executive Meeting last month and only had two (2) people come.

In spite of any stumbling blocks, we are continuing to pursue our goals. We have ordered 500 poppies and will be distributing them in May. I have spoken with Florence Spiwak, who coordinates the cookies to Hospitals and Nursing Homes for this area. If you have any cookies to donate, please have them to me by March 24, 1987.

Our membership is up to 150% now, so we are steadily moving up! We will have Initiation Ceremonies in April as none of us have been initiated into the Auxiliary. I am looking forward to seeing each member present at Post 5 Auxiliary Room. The date will be announced later. Our District 7 President, Betty Andrews will perform the ceremonies.

Anyone interested in holding an office in the Unit, please make your interest known. The nominating committee will be presenting its slate of nominees for the Auxiliary year 1987-1988. We need interested people to continue to carry out the programs for American Legion Auxiliary. Won't you help? Past Department President, Rose Skarin will install new officers on $\underline{\text{May 8}}$. $\underline{1987}$. We are looking forward to seeing each of you there.

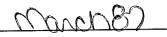
Our next meeting will be March 19th, if I don't see you, please remember our veterans at Ft. Lyons and Florence Nursing Home and get those cookies to me.

I am still encoured and wish to assure you that we are --"A Unit, Under God, Fulfilling a Commitment"

June Thomas - President



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[After Expense	s Income to Qua	dify for V	A Home Loan		7
1	Dollars per M	onth:				
	Family Size	Northeast	South	Midwest	West	\
	1	\$ 411	\$ 409	\$ 399	\$ 443	- 1
	2	646	643	<i>527</i>	697	- 1
1	3	786	781	/ 763	847	1
l	4	873	868	848	941	1
	5	951	946	924	1,025	}

VA officials emphasize that the new criteria provides an excellent barometer to use in sauging an individual's ability to meet home mortgage obligations. However, the final determinant is a veteran's financial condition. If in good shape financially, veterans may spend more than 41 percent of their gross income or fixed expenses or have slightly less than the after expenses minimum and still qualify for a loan.

There is strong opposition in the real estate industry. Real estate brokers charge that lower ranking personnel are being driven out of home ownership, and that VA minimums are unrealistically high for lower-cost cities and rural areas. VA officials counter that their statistics demonstrate that living in a rural area is not necessarily cheaper than in an urban area. What is saved on lower rent tends to be expended on trips to doctors and into town, they assert.

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years. That agenda, in it's simplest terms is to protect veterans programs from budgetary damage while simult statisty assuring sufficient defense funding to protect the nations security.

This year, for the first time since 1981, the Senate is controlled by a democrat party majority. Along with this majority go the chairmanships of virtually all committees and sub-committees and principal control over what legislation will reach the floor for consideration.

To even the most casual observers, the last 6 years have been difficult ones for veterans. The reasons for this difficulty have had less to do with the majority in the Senate then with a bipartism consensus that the nation must put its fiscal house in order.

The legion has agreed with this consensus, but has encountered an unwillingness to recognize until yery recently that the cost of veterans programs and benefits have contributed nothing to persistently high federal deficits. By comparison with other domestic federal programs, VA expenditures have been tightly controlled. This is one reason why the VA Budget has consumed and ever-decreasing share of total federal funds.

For some, the change in party domination of The Senate and the fact that the President now faces a House and Senate controlled by an opposing party may suggest a reversal in the trend to reduce spending on veterals. For others, the election results constitute an undesirable threat to the progress having been made to rebuild the nation's defenses.

The fact of the matter is that the Democratic majority in The Senate is slim enough to counsel caution against either unjustified hopes that the threat to veterans is over or that a bipartisan consensus on deficit reduction has been dissolved.

The challenge to both veterans and defense is guaranteed by the ongoing requirement of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law to reduce budgetary "Red Ink" by \$31 Billion each year until the deficit is eradicated in FY 1991. In other works no matter who controls Congress and no matter what The Administration proposes, Budgets will be constrained, deficit-reducing reconciliation legislation will be favorably considered and appropriations to actually pay for federal activities will decline.

The Legion made significant progress last year in convincing Congress that veterans have not caused the deficit for the first time in 6 years, veterans were exempt from reconciliation reductions.

Today, veterans interests are at a crossroads, aging veterans in need of medical care are growing in numbers. If the VA is to accommodate demand, more must be spent. Not only must medical care be full funded, but construction of replacement facilities to take the place of deteriorating older structures must proceed.

Employment programs for younger veterans must be improved and the VA home loan program must be *strengthend. For all generations of veterans, particularly service disabled veterans, There must be sufficient VA personnel to process claims in a timely manner. The claims made by Agent Orange in radiation-exposed veterans must be adjudicated in a fair and impartial atmosphere.

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The VA adopted the "special consideration" to veterans philosophy of The Small Business Administration (SBA) requirement of PL 93-237. The agency has directed all facilities having procurement requirements for which vietnam veterans and disabled veterans owned small businesses are known sources to take affirmative action to solicit these firms and assist them in participating in the VA procurement process.

The VA uses both the competitive, sealed bids and negotiation purchasing methods. Depending on the commodity, cost contracts are definite quantity, fixed price with definite delivery dates or call-type contracts with delivery orders placed as the need arises.

Each VA purchasing office maintains active bidding lists and commodity index files indicating the various items offered by prospective bidders.

Firms interested in being placed on the bidders list are required to submit standard form 129. This form should be completed in full and signed by an officer of the company who is authorized to execute contracts. Catalogs, price lists, and other informational material on the firm's product or service should

also be submitted. if available.

For further information on the VA's procurement process, or to request the necessary SF 129, write to the Deputy Director, Office of Small or Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OOSC), Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Ave, N.W, Washington, D.C. 20420.

While the VA is not authorized to set aside noncompetitive contract awards for veterans owned businesses, it feels that its efforts to actively seek out and assist these firms in competing for VA contracts will have a substantial and positive impact on the success of veteran owned and operated businesses.

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Jonathen Steinberg, chief counsel of The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, and Mack fleming, thief counsel of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, discussed the status of a pending veterans legislation.

Art Blank, director of re-adjustments counseling service to the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery, discussed the VET Center programs's development and bistory, and suggested that the time may be near to remove the centers from remote locations and to integrate them, where possible, into existing VA facilities.

The UPCC also heard reports prepared by commission staff members on a variety of issues of concern to The American Legion, including:

- the status of The Beneficiary Travel Allowance

- the gutlook for the FY 1789 Department of Defense Budget.

- National Security implications of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and its effect on the nations blood donor pool. - Challenges to Federal Veterans Employment Programs.

The VPCC is not a policy making body of the national organization. Its authority is limited to fact-finding and the formulation of recommendations for consideration by those national commissions in whose area of responsibility the recommendations may fall, and in advising the national executive committee.

Any recommendations of the committee, if accepted, is formally proposed through the legions's resolution process and is acted upon only as a result of national convention or NEC approval.

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110 E. ENTERPRISE / COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80907 (303) 598-3077

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VIETNAM VETERANS AND dISABLED VETERANS IN BUSINESS

signed by an officer of the company who is Authorized to execute contencts. Catalogs, paice 1151s, AND other informational motorial on The firm's product on sendice should plso Be submitted, if AUAIABLE. For futher in Sommotion on the UA's procurement process, or to aguest The NOCESSARY SF 129, WRITE To The Deputy Dinoton, office of Small on Dispoluminged Business OTIli Enton (0050), Va Terms Administration 810 Vermont Ave, N. W. Woshington D.C. 20420, While the UP is NOT Authorized To set Aside NON competitive content punds for Viteraus owned Businesses of feels That its elfouts To polively seck out AND ASSIST These Frems in competing for UA contracts will have A substantial AND positive impact on The success as veleus owned and operated VA LOON RATE LOUN TO 8.5 %. Washington ALNS - For The eighth Time in 21 months, The Veterns AdminisTration has lowered is maximum home low interest apre. Elsection JAMERRY 19, The VA-guman Teal Fixed post montgages dropped To 8.5 percent - The lowest sinon February 1978. The 8.5 percent RATE means that The mout Hly payment for principal and interest on The NEW UH 16AD of \$70,000 will drop \$25 10

have apposituaties To have The Vetupous Administration As one of Their ensioners. IN order To Sullill ITS mission of somuce To the millions of men one women who sexued Their country The VA - The government's Third largest Agency - must purchase goods and services for the operation of its medical centers, outpatient clinics, Nursing homes, domicilianies, outpench centus, Research facilities, AND offices, The UA Adapted the "special consideration" To Veterms ph, losophy of the Small Basiness Administration (SBA) requirement of 9293.337 The Azercy has directed 1911 lacilities having procurement reguments for which Vietness veteres and depoted vetered owned Small Businesses Ane Known sources to TAKE Allumotive setur to solveit These fine sol ASSIST Them IN porticipating in The UR procurement The UA uses Both The competitive, sealed Bids AND NOGOTIATION punctosing methods. Depending ON The commodity cost contents are de Sivite quantity, fixed price with deliving delivery dutes on coll-Type contends with delivery anders placed as the word arises. EACH UA punchismy office maintains AcTIVE Biddens 1.51 AND commodity index Files, indicating The UNRIOUS , Tems offered By prospetive Biddens Finns, Necrested in Being placed on The Bidden's 11st ARE Required To SUBMIT STANDARD FORM 129.

This form should be completed in full AND

To 538.24. As recently AS one year Ago, The monthly payment on The some loow would have BEEN 640,32. Based on The 10,5 percent poto Then in effect. This aipresents a sovinge for verenous of \$102.08 per MONTH ON The Average look. VET Benefit developments presented to Plan WAShington (ALNS) - The American Lagron's Veterans Planving AND Coordinating Committee has completed TWO Day of discussions AND meetings with mombers of The REAGON ADMINISTRATION, Representatives of The House AND SENDIE VETERANS DEFAIRS COMMITTEES, AND other concerned will the delivery of Vetternes The UPCC which needs saminoundly, Baings The Chrismen of the Legistative, VA+R, Economic AND Public Relations Commissions Together with legal and modical consultants, Logian leaders, and staff members to consider appropriate responses to challonges To vetenous interests. The committee is Chaired by NATIONAL Commarter James P. Dem. The meeting prends included issues succounding The proposed Fy 1988 Federal Budget AND CONTAIN legislative instintives which par likely to effect veterous in Terms of their peptil, economic AND social well being.

Thomas K TURNAGE, ADMINISTRATOR of VETERORS AFFAIRS,

discussed the effect of proposed \$550m, lien , rerease in the UR Budget. Despite the increase The UR Budget. Despite the increase The UR & gaing Fewand with plans to cut 2,500 - 3,000 Sull time equivalent employees from the popul, in Keeping with recent Tacads Toward Iniming the workforce,

In ADDITION SURVEYED described plans to Topd Back

So the government & 25 million which had Been carmaked for Treatment of "Contegny C" veterans

Those with paroste health insurance which can be pilled by the UA under peovisions for Third party remassement, is trapposhed Juring the 99th Congress.

Jourthon steinberg, chief counsel of the Senate Veterpres Attains Committee, and Mack fluming, chief counsel of the House Vederans Affairs Committee, discussed the STATUS of to pending Veterpres Jegislation,

ANT BINNK, DINGTON of READYNSTMENT COUNSELING
SERVICE IN THE UR DEPARTMENT of Medicine AND
SURGERY, DISCUSSED THE VET CENTER PROGRAM'S

Development AND KISTORY, PUB SUSGESTED THAT THE
Time may be NEAR TO REMOVE THE CENTERS FROM
REMOTE IDEPTIONS AND TO JUTOGRAPHE THEM, WHERE
POSSIBLE, INTO exisTing UR FACILIES.

The UPCC plso horned reports prepared by
commission staff members on a variety of
issues of corcers to the American degrow,
including - The Status of the Bene bicinary Travel
Allowance:

- The outlook lon The FY 1988 Department of D. Sense Budget: - NATIONAL Security implientions of Acquired Immune D- Siciency Syndrome (AIDS), AND ITS effect on the Nations Blood donon god; AND - Challenges To Federal verenous employment programs. The UPCC is NOT A policymaking Body - & The NATIONAL ORGANICATION. IT'S RUTTORITY & LIMITED TO EAST-FINDING AND HE formulation of Recommendations for consideration by share perwal commissions in whose mess of RISPONSIBILITY The Recommendations may FAM, AND IN Advising the NATIONAL Executive Committee. Avy seconmershippers of the committee, il proposed, is lonnelly proposed though the Legion's 12-solution process AND IS Acted upon only ASA RESULT of NATURAL CONVENTION ON NEC Approval FROM The ADJUTANT: Well MOTHER NATURE ARS Lowed us TO CANCEll Another merting: here's A let The Bit of what is going on with Post 209, Four Conner Benety Probet - 209 has The gardedge of posting The event This year. IT will Be held 24-26 April AT The Clasion 1-1. Tel. Plans par To hold to Golf Townwent during This weekend II will Be AT Commenion

14.11/s Golf Course. More despite IN Next

MONTH'S NEWS LETTER: Post Home: We have Been looking into The possi Bility of either punchasing on lessing p post home. Not sell the figures sene en yet pull as soon as we find out all The oppious That par pupiling to us we will B- PASSING Them ON AT FUTURE POST MECTINGS So plan to ATTEND All future meetings. Dove Thomas is out of The hospital And doing Fine. M. should Be BACK on Tursday pite in the rera feture Gym Riese has BOEN ADMITTED TO The Air Force Persony hospital. We wish him a speedy Recovery Of equase I'm doing I.K. gotting STR you every day AND hope To Br BACK on Tuesday will soon. Our symplomy goes out to John Druzs who Lost his pother Last month. John our sorrows pur wiTH you. Our Balk mailing application has Been submitted and we should be heming something soon. This would ent our expenses in great deal. Thanks Bill Homson for all your help in This AREA. We muc Also in The process of updating one corstitution put By-LAWS. They have Bead goals. We have ordered 500 poppies and will be distributing them in May. I have spoken with Florence Spiwak, who coordinates the cookies to Hospitals and Nursing Homes for this area. If you have any cookies to donate, please have them to me by March 24, 1987.

Our membership is up to 150% now, so we are steadily moving up! We will have Initiation Ceremonies in April as none of us have been initiated into the Auxiliary. I am looking forward to seeing each member present at Post 5 Auxiliary Room. The date will be announced later. Our District 7 President, Betty Andrews will perform the ceremonies.

Anyone interested in holding an office in the Unit, please make your interest known. The nominating committee will be presenting its slate of nominees for the Auxiliary year 1987-1988. We need interested people to continue to carry out the programs for American Legion Auxiliary. Won't you help? Past Department President, Rose Skarin will install new officers on May 8.

1987. We are looking forward to seeing each of you there.

Our next meeting will be March 19th, if I don't see you, please remember our veterans at Ft. Lyons and Florence Nursing Home and get those cookies to me.

I am still encoured and wish to assure you that we are --"A Unit. Under God, Fulfilling a Commitment"

June Thomas - President