

**FORTUNA VERERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
HOUSE COMMITTEE**

February 9, 2022

Alvin Dunnegan
Fortuna Veterans House Committee Secretary/Treasurer
P.O. Box 180
Fortuna, CA 95540

Tom deAge
Sr. Real Property Agent
Humboldt County Public Works
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Humboldt County Board of Supervisors,

Please find the attached the utility expenses for the Fortuna Veterans Memorial Building for Calendar Year 2021 totaling \$12, 263.92.

As you are aware, the Veterans Hall Management Agreement, County Responsibilities (4) County agrees, in so far as possible, to provide funding to the Halls with a yearly sum to cover the cost of water, sewer, electricity, gas, garbage, and local telephone service. For the past 10 years that I have personally been associated with the Fortuna Veterans Building, that funding has been in the form an Annual Stipend in the amount of \$5502.

Over the years due to the ever-increasing costs of utilities as well building maintenance and janitorial services and supplies, we have repeatedly asked for that stipend to be increased but to no avail. Therefore, I am requesting that the Annual Stipend for calendar year 2021 be increased to \$11,830.52.

The operation and maintenance of the Fortuna Veterans Memorial Building is overseen by the Veterans Memorial Building House Committee comprised of six members, three members representing VFW Sunset Post 2207 and three members representing the American Legion Post 205. VFW members include Alvin Dunnegan , Bill Hummel, and Ronald Eldridge. American Legion members include Rhett Imperiale, Walt Chalton (Chairman), and Ivan Brownell.

The Veterans Memorial Building is widely utilized by the local citizenry of the City of Fortuna and surrounding communities. It serves as the meeting place for both the VFW and American Legion and Ladies Auxiliaries organizations each month.

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Normally during non-COVID times, the Veterans Building was rented out for private community events such as memorial services, baptismal celebrations, birthday parties, coming of age parties, etc.

In addition, the Veterans Memorial Building provides a location for annual community and charitable functions such as the three-day Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale held each spring and the River Life Foundation Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner for the indigent.

The Fortuna Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club utilizes the Veterans Building for their annual fund-raising events. Both the Fortuna High School and the Hydesville Elementary School utilize the Veterans Memorial Building for yearly fund-raising events. The Bear River Casino utilizes our facility annually to conduct month long employee training for gaming events at the casino.

The Veterans Memorial Building also provides an appropriate setting for ceremonies on Veterans Day, and Memorial Day, and Pearl Harbor Day honoring veterans past present sponsored by The Fortuna Senior Center, Boy Scouts of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in these matters.

*Alvin (Al) Dunnegan
Veterans House Committee Secretary/Treasurer
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