



POST 201 INFORMER

Grassman - Sowle - Larsen - Senz Post 201
Tomah, WI



VOLUME 28, ISSUE 8

1 Apr 2009

2008 - 2009 Legion Officers

Commander: Calvin Marcellis
Adjutant: Mike Schoeny
1st Vice: Scott Johnson
2nd Vice: Dave Goldbeck
3rd Vice: Jay Lewis
Finance Ofc: Vince Rowan
Chaplain: Bill Rice
Service Ofc: John Hubert
Sgt. at Arms: Tony Adams
Larry Caliguire

2008 - 2009 Aux Officers

President: Lori Goldbeck
1st Vice: Helene Stein
2nd Vice: Toni Palmer
Secretary: Geri Grandinetti
Treasurer: Rita Steffel
Chaplain: Evelyn Noyes
Sunshine / Hospital: Velma Lutz
Sgt at Arms: Kym Meltesen

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COMMANDER'S NOTES

I am glad to see the weather is finally turning nice. I've seen 3 robins already this year. The Post received 5 scholarship applications and as you know only 2 could be granted. The scholarships were granted to Dana Dechant and Jeanne Evans. Pete Peterson took care of the Badger Boys State; the boys selected to represent Post 201 are Greg Gerke and Nate Harton.

Don't forget there will be two fish fries this month with the second being held on Good Friday. I hope to see some extra volunteers, as this will be quite a workload for everyone. Please come out and help support these events. Don't forget that elections are coming near; if you are interested in becoming a member of the executive committee get your name into the nominating committee, our two most recent past commanders Lamont Dechant and Jay Lewis. Our Post is YOUR VOICE, let it be a loud and united one.

On a financial note, one of our CD's has been cashed to pay for all the kitchen updates and to make up for the lack of rentals. I do hope that this is a temporary issue; if you have any ideas to help the Post increase its income let us know so that we may continue to support our community and our service men and women. I have faith in this Post and in our Legionnaires to overcome all diversity and do what it takes to continue to be an asset to our community, state and nation.

Let us keep in our hearts and prayers those service men and women here and abroad and show them our appreciation for their sacrifice.

CALVIN MARCELLIS
Commander

WEBSITE UPDATE - We've had 884 visitors as of Sept 1st. The address is www.tomahwilegion.org. Check it out on occasion and see what we've been doing.

Adjutant's Corner

Post 201 is still not at 100 %. Please get your membership dues in.

The Fort McCoy Army Community Service is sponsoring a Military Family Support night, meeting every Tuesday of each month at four local Legion posts. Information on these meetings is included at the end of the articles.

The next article is what the American Legion is all about, to rally around our VETERANS who have served. Please read and contact your congressperson to tell them that you disagree with what they plan on enacting.

The American Legion Strongly Opposed to President's Plan to Charge Wounded Heroes for Treatment: The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization says he is "deeply disappointed and concerned" after a meeting with President Obama today to discuss a proposal to force private insurance companies to pay for the treatment of military veterans who have suffered service-connected disabilities and injuries. The Obama administration recently revealed a plan to require private insurance carriers to reimburse the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in such cases.

"It became apparent during our discussion today that the President intends to move forward with this unreasonable plan," said Commander David K. Rehbein of The American Legion. "He says he is looking to generate \$540-million by this method, but refused to hear arguments about the moral and government-avowed obligations that would be compromised by it."

The Commander, clearly angered as he emerged from the session said, "This reimbursement plan would be inconsistent with the mandate 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle' given that the United States government sent members of the armed forces into harm's way, and not private insurance companies. I say again that The American Legion does not and will not support any plan that seeks to bill a veteran for treatment of a service connected disability at the very agency that was created to treat the unique need of America's veterans!"

Commander Rehbein was among a group of senior officials from veterans service organizations joining the President, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki and Steven Kosiak, the overseer of defense spending at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The group's early afternoon conversation at The White House was precipitated by a letter of protest presented to the President earlier this month. The letter, co-signed by Commander Rehbein and the heads of ten colleague organizations, read, in part, " There is simply no logical explanation for billing a veteran's personal insurance for care that the VA has a responsibility to provide. While we understand the fiscal difficulties this country faces right now, placing the burden of those fiscal problems on the men and women who have already sacrificed a great deal for this country is unconscionable."

Commander Rehbein reiterated points made last week in testimony to both House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. It was stated then that The American Legion believes that the reimbursement plan would be inconsistent with the mandate that VA treat service-connected injuries and disabilities given that the United States government sends members of the armed forces into harm's way, and not private insurance companies.

Continued

Adjutant's Corner Continued

The proposed requirement for these companies to reimburse the VA would not only be unfair says the Legion, but would have an adverse impact on service-connected disabled veterans and their families. The Legion argues that, depending on the severity of the medical conditions involved, maximum insurance coverage limits could be reached through treatment of the veteran's condition alone. That would leave the rest of the family without health care benefits. The Legion also points out that many health insurance companies require deductibles to be paid before any benefits are covered. Additionally, the Legion is concerned that private insurance premiums would be elevated to cover service-connected disabled veterans and their families, especially if the veterans are self-employed or employed in small businesses unable to negotiate more favorable across-the-board insurance policy pricing. The American Legion also believes that some employers, especially small businesses, would be reluctant to hire veterans with service-connected disabilities due to the negative impact their employment might have on obtaining and financing company health care benefits.

"I got the distinct impression that the only hope of this plan not being enacted," said Commander Rehbein, "is for an alternative plan to be developed that would generate the desired \$540-million in revenue. The American Legion has long advocated for Medicare reimbursement to VA for the treatment of veterans. This, we believe, would more easily meet the President's financial goal. We will present that idea in an anticipated conference call with White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel in the near future.

"I only hope the administration will really listen to us then. This matter has far more serious ramifications than the President is imagining," concluded the Commander.

[SOURCE: The American Legion]

Operation Homefront needs your donations for the Troops overseas. We have over 3500 Wisconsin Troops in harms way. There are collection boxes at Burnstads, Senior Center, J&R Variety Store and Walmart. Volunteers meet at the Tomah VA every 3rd Tues from 1-4 to pack boxes that go to our Wisconsin troops. Just to name a few, the following items are needed and you can put them in the boxes at the locations mentioned above. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, hand sanitizer, lotion, deodorant shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner, candy, batteries, trail mix, beef jerky, gum, writing paper, and Pringles.

MICHAEL SCHOENY

Adjutant

VOITURE 40et8

Don't forget the next Promenade will be held at Post 201 on April 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Also, word is out that there will be a Wreck at Hixton. We have a P G that has to be wrecked. As of this writing, the date is still set for some day in April.

ERROL MROTEK
Correspondent

1st Vice

No Report

SCOTT JOHNSON
1st Vice
Honor Guard
Quartermaster

Honor Guard

No Report

RAY FREDRICKSON
Chairman Honor Guard

BAR/HALL MANAGER

Please note anyone interested in using the Hall or Bar area must book with the Bar Manager.

Mark you calendars for April Fish Fry's as we will be having our regularly scheduled Fish Fry the 1st Friday of the month on April 3rd and an additional Fish Fry April 10th for Good Friday.

It is that time of year again so the calendar is filling up fast. Just call the Bar Manager today to reserve your special date. Please pass the word the Legion is a great place to have your special occasion. Plenty of room and benefits.

DAVE GOLDBECK
2nd Vice Commander

UPCOMING DATES

APR 2009

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 3 Legion Fish Fry
- 9 Legion/Auxiliary Meetings (7:30 p.m.)
- 9 National Former POW Recognition Day
- 10 Good Friday Fish Fry (Auxiliary Scholarships)
- 11 Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991)
- 12 EASTER
- 13 Veterans Association Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 15 40et8 Promenade (6:00 p.m.)
- 15 Income Tax Day
- 18 Rezin/Anderson Wedding
- 27 Honor Guard Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 28 Spaghetti Feed (starts 4:30 p.m.)
- 30 ALA Award Banquet (11:00-3:00)

MAY 2009

- 1 Legion Fish Fry
- 8 V-E Day (1945)
- 10 MOTHER'S DAY
- 14 Legion/Auxiliary Meetings (7:30 p.m.)
- 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 16 Armed Forces Day
- 16 Prescott/Kingfisher Wedding
- 25 Memorial Day (Observed)

FINANCE REPORT

Checkbook Balance as of Feb 1, 2009: \$5805.96
 Checkbook Balance as of Feb 28, 2009: \$686.47
 CD Balances (end of Feb): \$22,516.13
 Fish Fry Tips (end of Feb):
 \$520.00

VINCENT ROWAN
Finance Officer



AUXILIARY NEWS

Another reminder that the 7th District Spring Conference is April 18th at Onalaska Post 336. Our contact person is Kelli Mades, 608-385-6693. If you are planning to go we can try to car pool if you so choose. Contact President Lori Goldbeck, 374-4180. At present we have five ladies signed up to attend.

Mark your calendars for April 3rd Fish Fry and April 10th "Good Friday". The Auxiliary will have an additional fish fry on Good Friday for our annual scholarship fundraiser. We can still use more volunteers for the fish fries. **This is also Poppy month, contact Helene Stein if you wish to help.**

March was also Community Service month. You need to turn in your service hours to Pat Flanders so they can be included in the annual reports due May 1st. She also stated that they are in need of a VA Representative, please contact her if you are interested. The VA is also still in need of volunteers to assist the Veterans.

PLEASE let us know if you have not received an info letter about the Spring Fling on May 2nd. You can contact Helene Stein for booth info. There will also be euchre that day as well. For those of you who wish to volunteer at the Spring Fling please contact myself or Helene.

Bonnie Owen, Kym Meltesen and Rita Steffel are the nominating committee for the upcoming election of new officers. If you wish to become an Auxiliary officer please contact one of them. They will be submitting the names at the April meeting. We really would like to see more ladies attend meetings and let your voices be heard.

Hopefully you have signed up for one of the Legion bowling events this year. The deadline for signing up for the 9-Pin Tap in Wausau was March 20th. The closing date for the **2009 7th District American Legion Bowling Tournament** is April 19th. It is sponsored by the Roy L. Vingers American Legion Post 52, LaCrosse, WI. All bowling events will take place at South Lanes, 4107 Mormon Coulee Rd, LaCrosse, WI 54601, (608) 788-0838. Mail entries to American Legion Post 52 (Attn: Bowling), 711 South 6th Street, LaCrosse, WI 54601. Please e-mail michael.f.wagoner@us.army.mil if you have questions about the tournament.

Please plan to attend the next meeting on April 9th. Hope to see you all there and to see many new faces!

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Easter!!!

God Bless America, United We Stand!!!
LORI GOLDBECK
 Auxiliary President

MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT

Held Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Sparta - 1st Tuesday of each month
 American Legion Post 100, 1116 Angelo Road

Black River Falls - 2nd Tuesday of each month
 National Guard Armory, 441 Highway 54 W

Tomah - 3rd Tuesday of each month
 American Legion Post 201, 800 Wisconsin Avenue

La Crosse - 4th Tuesday of each month
 American Legion Post 52, 711 S 6th Street

This meeting is for Family members of Soldiers who are preparing for deployment, who are presently deployed or who have returned from deployment.

This open process meeting will provide a time for family members to share their experiences and provide an opportunity for others to gain greater insight, possible solutions and caring support.

You need not be a military dependent to attend; parents, adult children, siblings and close friends are welcome. Attendees must be 18 years or older.

For more information, contact Fort McCoy Army Community Service, (608) 388-3505 or (800) 982-3585, ext 3505

