



POST 201 INFORMER

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



VOLUME 28, ISSUE 10

1 June 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 want to thank everyone who helped honor our deceased veterans by placing flags at the cemetery on May 18th. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of those who helped with all of the different Memorial Day ceremonies that went on the 25th.

The Veterans Association needs volunteers for the beer tent during the Tractor Pull, 4th of July and Monroe County Fair. The Honor Guard will be marching in the 4th of July parade. The Legion will not have a float this year but the Veterans Association is going to have a float in the parade for the VFW and Legion Firing Squads to ride on.

We need someone to take over the responsibility of putting on the fish fries. This is a major source of income for the Legion so we need to keep it going. Anyone interested in taking it over please call me at (608)387-0730.

Because this is the last Informer until September, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe summer. Hope to see a lot of new faces at our meetings this fall.

Don't forget our June meeting on the 11th will follow a 5:30 pot-luck. We will have installation of officers that night.

Keep our service men and women in our thoughts and prayers, and thank them every day.

CALVIN MARCELLIS
Commander

WEBSITE UPDATE - We've had 1054 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

Website for Connecting Military Families: www.connectingmilitaryfamilies.net

VA Welcoming Vets Home with New Web Site, Blog: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched its new "Returning Veterans" Web site -- www.oefoif.va.gov -- to welcome home Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, Veteran-centric Web site focusing on their needs and questions. "VA is entering the world of Web 2.0, because that's where this generation of Veterans is already communicating," said Dr. Gerald M. Cross, VA's Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Health. "We're opening our doors to them virtually to let them know what they can expect when they step through our doors in reality." The Web site will feature videos, Veteran stories, and a blog where Veterans are encouraged to post feedback. The site also will restructure the traditional index-of-benefits format found on other VA pages into question-based, categorized, and easily navigated links by topic. This will allow Veterans to find benefits of interest easily and discover related benefits as they explore. "We hope our returning Veterans find this site easy and helpful, but also engaging," Dr. Cross said. "As the site grows, we will be linking to Veterans' blogs and highlighting more of their own stories from their own views. We are their VA, so we are eager to provide a forum for Veterans to discuss their lives."

SPECIAL DAY FOR LEGIONNAIRES: In honor of their service to our country, the Mid-Western Rodeo in Manawa, Wisconsin would like to invite all American Legion members to American Legion Day – Sunday, July 5th at 2:00 pm. Any Legion member wearing an American Legion pin, hat, shirt, or other Legion gear will get free admission to the reserved seating area. For more information on the Mid-Western Rodeo call 1-800-74RODEO or visit www.manawarodeo.org.

Obtain Your Medals and Decorations: It has been said war memorials consecrate ideas and battlefields consecrate events. The US Army Veteran Medals Unit would add that military medals and decorations awarded to our soldiers and veterans consecrate an individual's values and deeds. If you are an Army Veteran, or next of kin of an Army veteran, you may request a set of authorized medals and decorations by sending a written request along with a copy of the DD Form 214 or other discharge papers to: National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St Louis, MO 63132-5100; or you can visit the National Personnel Records Center website at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>. If you have never received a set of your medals before, your request will be processed free-of-charge. If this is a replacement set, there will be a nominal fee. If you are the primary next of kin, only one request for medals will be honored. After the National Personnel Records processes your request, they will send you a list of the medals you are authorized. You can check the status of your request, as well as view some general information about medals and decorations at, www.veteranmedals.army.mil.

Neillsville Highground: The idea for the Highground was actually born on December 18, 1965 on a battlefield in Vietnam. Twenty four year old Tom Miller was holding in his arms his good friend and buddy, 22 year old Jack Swender. Jack was unconscious and bleeding. As Jack lay dying in Tom's arms, Tom made a silent promise to himself and to Jack that this terrible loss and great sacrifice would not be given in vain. Twenty years later in 1985, Tom organized the first bike-a-thon, peddling around the perimeter of Wisconsin for a total of 1244 miles, the number of Wisconsin military personnel killed or missing in action in Vietnam. This was the first significant amount of money raised. The Annual Bike Tour, which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2009, now encompasses 6 routes that will all converge on the Highground on August 9, 2009 at 11:30 am for a very special Journey's End Celebration picnic. In honor of this major milestone in the Highground's history, veteran Tom Kingsbury has volunteered to re-create the ride that Tom Miller made back in 1985. The Highground Hero's Tribute Ride will help bring the Persian Gulf Tribute to the Highground. This new tribute will honor the men and woman who have served around the world beginning with Desert Storm, through multiple Middle East conflicts, while marching forward in the Global War on Terrorism. Planning is underway for the over 30 stops along the route. For more information about the High Ground Hero's Tribute Ride please call 715-743-4224 or visit our website at www.thehighground.org.

ATTEND A BREWER GAME:

Department Headquarters has tickets available for the Brewers/Astros game on Sunday, August 16 at 1:05 p.m. with The Legion All-Star Game will follow. Brewers fans purchasing tickets are welcome to stay to enjoy the All-Star Game after. You do not need to be affiliated with the Legion Baseball program or the American Legion. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit Wisconsin American Legion Baseball. To obtain an order form please contact Jill at Department Headquarters. For more information on how you can start a team, volunteer, or donate, please contact Wisconsin American Legion Baseball Secretary Jill Janke at (608) 745-1090 or jill@wilegion.org

MICHAEL SCHOENY
Adjutant

VOITURE 40et8

I want to thank all the Voitures that have already paid their 2010 dues. We are still behind from last year's membership. For our members that haven't paid their dues, please mail them in and I'll mail your 2010 card back to you ASAP. If you find a Legionnaire that you feel would make a good Voiture, let us know and we will send you the nomination forms.

Our next promenade will be at 6:30 p.m. on June 17, 2009 at Tomah Post 201.

ERROL MROTEK
Correspondent

BAR/HALL MANAGER

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

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

FINANCE REPORT

Checkbook Balance as of Apr 1, 2009: \$1277.78
Checkbook Balance as of Apr 30, 2009: \$3003.45
CD Balances (end of Apr): \$16,598.07
Fish Fry Tips (end of Apr): \$682.00

VINCENT ROWAN
Finance Officer



1st Vice

No Report

SCOTT JOHNSON
1st Vice
Honor Guard
Quartermaster

Honor Guard

No Report

RAY FREDRICKSON
Chairman Honor Guard

UPCOMING DATES

JUNE 2009

- 6 D-Day (1944)
- 11 Legion/Auxiliary Meetings after 5:30 potluck
- 12 Larson Wedding
- 14 U.S. Army Founded (1775)
- 14 Flag Day
- 14 Clark Graduation
- 16 Ft McCoy Family Support Group
- 20 Modjeski (Goldbeck) Graduation
- 21 FATHER'S DAY
- 21 Summer Begins
- 25 KOREAN WAR Began (1950)
- 27 LEGION GOLF OUTING
- 28 Golf Outing Rainout

JULY 2009

- 2 U.S. Army Air Corps Established (1926)
- 4 Fourth of July
- 11 Hart/Robarge Wedding
- 18 Arnold Wedding
- 21 Ft McCoy Family Support Group
- 25 Baker Wedding
- 27 KOREAN WAR Ended (1953)
- 28 WORLD WAR I Began (1914)

AUGUST 2009

- 1 Quackenbush Reunion
- 4 U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)
- 7 Purple Heart Medal Established (1782)
- 7 Johnson 80th
- 8 Sonnenburg Dance
- 18 Ft McCoy Family Support Group
- 22 Ingenthron/Dawley Wedding
- 29 Habeck Wedding



AUXILIARY NEWS

Money collected for distribution of poppies the first weekend in May was \$527.50. I would like to thank John and Laura Hubert, Marie McFarland, Andrew, Allyssa and Allyson Wallace for distributing the poppies. Allyssa's poppy centerpiece was recognized at the Spring Conference, and Anthony Adams and Allyson Wallace made posters. I am proud to see our youth get involved with Legion and Auxiliary activities.

We had a fairly good turnout for the Spring Fling. Congratulations to the raffle basket winners and thanks to Laura, Zetta, Bonnie and Lori for their basket donations for the Spring Fling. I would like to thank the vendors who support us time after time, and the euchre players for their support and donations. I especially want to thank the ladies who helped with the setup and help with the kitchen, bake sale, and raffles. If it wasn't for the volunteers and vendors we would not be able to have our craft/bake sales!

Angela Gasser and Shelby Hoefft will represent Unit 201 at Badger Girls State. The State Convention will be in Milwaukee the week of July 23-26. Congratulations to Chantel Marx and Helene Stein; they are the Auxiliary's two \$500 scholarship recipients.

Because I was presenting the scholarships, I was unable to help at Oak Grove Cemetery on the 18th. I would like to thank the ladies for placing flags at our deceased members' gravesites at Oak Grove and the different cemeteries in the area.

If you have not paid your last year's dues please do so ASAP! Your contribution keeps us going and we need volunteers for several activities throughout the year. Please attend a meeting and see what it is all about, you will be surprised how much the Auxiliary supports the military and community. It is a great way to get involved. We are a large group and only a select few volunteer all the time. Know everyone has busy lives but every little bit helps and does make a difference!

A HUGE Thank You to all the ladies who have attended meetings and volunteered their time with several activities throughout the year. A special thank you to the officers and all their help. To all the volunteers and their help again if we do not have attendance and volunteers we have no Auxiliary, so THANK YOU, be proud and I am honored to serve as your President.

Please try and come to the last meeting to see the installation of the officers and join in for the potluck social.

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



OPERATION MILITARY KIDS

Supporting Wisconsin Military Youth

SUPER SUMMER CAMP SPECTACULAR

CAMP UPHAM WOODS, WISCONSIN DELLS

August 23-25, 2009

Grades 3-5

3 day/2 night camp

August 26-29, 2009

Grades 6-9

4 day/3 night camp

Camp costs are covered by the Operation Military Kids Program, but there is a registration fee of \$25 to reserve your space. Hardships and special circumstances will be handled on an individual basis.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 10, 2009

For more information and application materials

Visit: www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/omk

Call: (608) 647-6148

E-mail: pamela.hobson@ces.uwex.edu

Laura.pettersen@ces.uwex.edu

The camp is open to all military dependents, but those youth who have a family member deployed between October 2007 and October 2009 will have priority.