



POST 201 INFORMER

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



VOLUME 28, ISSUE 7

1 Mar 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

The Snow WAS gone, what happened? I had a dream last night that every seat was filled at the Post meeting in March. I sure enjoyed the attendance at the February meeting, what a turn out. Thank you all for attending. The time is coming near for Post elections. Everyone should be thinking about this. Every person elected represents YOUR voice. Please, if you haven't been down to a meeting in a while now is the time you want to come, this is YOUR post. I would like to once again thank all of our volunteers, without your help we wouldn't be where we are today. THANK YOU.

We have received a few scholarship applications so if you are interested and have not turned those in yet please get those in right away. Pete is getting Badger Boys lined up and doing the great job we are accustomed to from him. Don't forget we are hosting the 2009 District 7 Golf outing so if you are interested in golfing or helping please give Jay Lewis, Chuck Marx or Chuck Roeske a call.

I put in the Last informer if anyone is interested in being a guard for the TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN to call me but alas it was not to be so therefore I cannot get the memorial to Tomah. Those of you who did volunteer I thank you once again for your support and I am truly sorry we could not pull this off THIS YEAR. We WILL try again next year.

Ladies and Gentlemen it is time for the Commander's Soap Box. People as individuals sometimes think what difference does it make, no one cares what I have to say; this is what I have to say about that. We are individuals but we are all a part of a very big team, our voices compound to the point that they must hear what we have to say and they WILL hear what we have to say. We are a great voice in the matters of soldiers and veterans rights, we are a great voice in our community. We stood together for the defense of this country and now we will stand together for those fighting for her today and those that have gone before us. Whatever you think is an important issue IS an important issue. Bring it up and let's join together to get it resolved. The reason I bring this up you might ask, is the fact that veterans benefits are diminishing as we speak, Some veterans are not being seen at the VA, older Veterans are not able to be admitted, VA housing loans are not approved because of this or that. It's time to stand up and get these benefits back. YOU EARNED THEM!!!

As I end this article please keep our soldiers, sailors and airmen along with their families in our thoughts and prayers. Say thank you when you meet them in our travels and pray for their safe and speedy return.

CALVIN MARCELLIS
Commander

WEBSITE UPDATE - We've had 825 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

The Post is still not at 100%. Please if you have not paid your dues get them in as soon as possible.

Legion family launches Operation Comfort Warrior

We need your help. Most importantly, they need you. They are our warriors, our guardians, our protectors. They are liberators, peacekeepers and nation-builders. They are our neighbors, friends and family members. They are the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. And now they are hurting.

The U.S. government does a good job providing for the essential needs of the men and women recovering from war injuries in hospitals like Walter Reed, Brooke Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center. But what about the so-called nonessentials, the items that don't show up as a budget-line on a government spreadsheet? Nonessential comfort items such as loose-fitting sweat suits that can cover a soldier's healing body without adding pressure to the burns he suffered during an RPG attack in Ramadi. Or an I-Pod to help drown out the tinnitus that has plagued the medic ever since she drove too close to a roadside bomb in Afghanistan?

The Legion family's Operation Comfort Warriors will provide some of these items. Contributing is effortless. No trips to the post office or packaging of comfort items are needed. We will handle all of that. You can use your credit card to make an online donation at www.legion.org/ocw or you can mail a check to Operation Comfort Warriors, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Administrative and promotional costs for Operation Comfort Warriors will be paid by The American Legion, so you can be sure that your entire donation will go directly to the troops. Many centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages, so monetary donations are needed in order to purchase items that are truly needed.

When the Red Cross notified The American Legion that zip-up sweatsuits were in short supply at Walter Reed, the Legion immediately ordered 100 sets. But it's just a drop in the bucket. We have been told there is an even greater need for items at Fort Hood and Fort Bragg. Consider that there are 67 other U.S. military inpatient facilities and 1,369 VA inpatient and outpatient centers, and you can grasp the enormous need. Their size and needs, however, are dwarfed by the obligation that America has to these heroes.

Shortly after the bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Gen. P.X. Kelley visited a severely injured Marine in the hospital. Gen. Kelley said the young Marine had "more tubes going in and out of his body than I have ever seen in one body." The injured Marine could not see his Commandant very well. Gen. Kelley recalled, "He reached up and grabbed my four stars, just to make sure I was who I said I was. He held my hand with a firm grip. He was making signals, and we realized he wanted to tell me something. We put a pad of paper in his hand - and he wrote 'Semper Fi.'" ,,, Semper Fi, or Semper Fidelis, is the Marine Corps motto meaning "Always Faithful." Well today's wounded warriors in all service branches remain faithful. Faithful to their country, their comrades in arms and their loved ones back home. Operation Comfort Warrior will never be able to compensate these heroes for their sacrifices. But it will show them that we care.

If any LEGION MEMBER has a relative in the military, please e-mail these TAX TIPS to them.

TAX TIPS FOR SOLDIERS:

Note: The information provided is not tax advice, but strictly tax information as provided in the instructions from the Federal 1040, Illinois IL - 1040, and Wisconsin Form 1. You should discuss your personal tax situation with your tax professional prior to making any tax decisions regarding the following information.

Per the IRS tax code, your spouse may only sign your name (a Soldier's name) without a power of attorney if you are in a combat zone **and** overseas. So unless you are planning on going overseas with the Army or heading home what are your other options? Have your spouse prepare the returns (Fed & State) The spouse signs their name to the returns, They mail the returns to you, You sign the returns, You mail the returns to the IRS and respective state, Go to Legal, get a "tax" power of attorney.. The Forms are: Federal = Form 2848 <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2848.pdf> , IL = Copy of Federal Form 2848 attached to the return, WI Residents = Form A - 222 <http://www.dor.state.wi.us/forms/misc/a-222.pdf> , Forward it to your spouse, Your spouse will then attach the respective power of attorney to the correlating tax returns prior to mailing. Request an extension by filing the Federal Form 4868 <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4868.pdf> which gives you until 10/15/2009 to sign the return. *****Note: That if any taxes are due, they must be paid with the extension on or before 4/15/09. The extension is only for the paperwork not for the money!**

Continued

Adjutant's Corner Continued

IL Residents:

If you do not owe additional taxes to IL for 2008, there is nothing to do for the moment. Just attach the Federal Form 4868 when you actually file the IL - 1040. If you owe additional taxes to IL for 2008, you'll need to pay those taxes with Form IL - 505 - I <http://www.revenue.state.il.us/taxforms/Incm2008/Individual/IL - 505 - I.pdf> by 4/15/2009.

WI Residents:

If you do not owe additional taxes to WI for 2008, there is nothing to do for the moment. Just attach the Federal Form 4868 when you actually file the Form 1. If you owe additional taxes to WI for 2008, you'll need to pay those taxes with Form 1 - ES <http://www.dor.state.wi.us/forms/2008/08d - 101f.pdf> by 4/15/2009. However, per Form 1 Instructions "You will not be charged interest during an extension period if (1) you served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the United States, or (2) you qualify for a federal extension because of service in a combat zone." To qualify for the pass on interest for late filing, make sure on Form 1 under "Special Conditions" you fill in "01".

Badger Legionnaire Publication Schedule Change:

At the Mid-Winter Conference held January 16th-19th, the Department Executive Committee voted to change the publication schedule of the Badger Legionnaire from a publication with a four-week cycle to one with a five-week cycle. This change will take effect starting with the next issue of the Badger Legionnaire. The next issue will not arrive in mailboxes on March 1st, but instead around March 9th. That issue will be posted online about a week to ten days prior to it arriving in mailboxes. By moving to a five-week cycle, two issues of the Badger Legionnaire have been eliminated at a cost savings of approximately \$35,000 to the Department. This change will also affect when articles are due into the editor for inclusion in the publication. More information on the revised publication schedule and new deadlines will be available in the March issue of the Badger Legionnaire.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Cell phone numbers go public next month and will be released to telemarketing companies. This means you will start to receive sale calls. **YOU MAY BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS!!!** To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222 . It is the National DO NOT CALL list. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five (5) years. **You must call from the cell phone number you want to have blocked.** You cannot call from a different phone number.

Vietnam Veterans May be Eligible for Compensation for Diabetes. As the occurrence of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus is increasing for Vietnam veterans, there is a statistically higher incidence of Type 2 Diabetes. Because of this, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) declared a link between service in Vietnam and the disease, due to herbicide exposure to Agent Orange, the defoliant sprayed in the jungles throughout Vietnam to clear foliage covering enemy hiding places. Special VA health care and compensation benefits are available to the 2.6 million men and women who served in Vietnam proper between January 9, 1962 and May 1975. VA has a presumptive policy that presumes all military personnel who served in Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange, and federal law presumes that certain illnesses, including Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and several forms of cancer are a result of that exposure. Military veterans who served in Vietnam who now have Type 2 Diabetes are eligible for presumptive service-connected disability compensation and health care connected with this condition through the VA. Service in the waters offshore or in the air does not qualify a veteran unless there is proof that he or she set foot on land in Vietnam. For most veterans who served in Vietnam, their service is clearly shown on their military discharge papers (DD-214). Veterans with qualifying service should obtain a detailed statement from their treating doctor that they are being treated for diabetes, as a successful VA claim could entitle them to compensation for diabetes. Once the service-connected condition has been established, a VA claim can be reopened for secondary conditions discovered, such as diabetic retinopathy. Veterans may receive care for Type 2 Diabetes at any VA medical facility. Both medical care and prescription drugs required to treat the condition are provided without cost for veterans service connected for the condition. Wisconsin veterans who have never previously filed a VA claim may contact a local County Veterans Service Officer (see list on the Wis. Dept. of Veterans Affairs website at www.WisVets.com/CVSO) or call the department toll-free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387) for more information.

MICHAEL SCHOENY
Adjutant

VOITURE 40et8

Greetings from Voiture 804. It is that time of year when some of our winter birds are thinking about flying back home. Seeing that most of you are home the Chef de Gare has called for a Promenade. It 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 now it is 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

MAR 2009

- 2 Vietnam War Began (1965)
- 3 "Star Spangled Banner" made U.S. Nat'l Anthem (1931)
- 6 **Legion Fish Fry**
- 8 **Daylight Savings Time (Set clocks ahead 1 hour)**
- 12 **Legion/Auxiliary Meetings (7:30 p.m.)**
- 12 Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Founded (1912)
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Operation Iraqi Freedom Began (2003)
- 20 Spring Begins
- 21 Frances Baldwin's 90th
- 23 **Honor Guard Meeting (7:00 p.m.)**
- 24 **Spaghetti Feed (starts 4:30 p.m.)**

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)**

FINANCE REPORT

Checkbook Balance as of Dec 1, 2008: \$7140.69
 Checkbook Balance as of Dec 31, 2008: \$6428.22
 CD Balance: \$22,491.25
 Fish Fry Tips: \$330.00

VINCENT ROWAN
Finance Officer



AUXILIARY NEWS

Greetings, here we are at March already. Although we have had a cold & icy winter so far I hope for a Good Spring. May the Luck be with us!

Please note 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.

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 want to sincerely thank Bonnie Owens and the Cranberry Country Cruisers for their donation of dishtowels and silverware to the Legion.

March 15th is Department and National Scholarship deadlines. March is also Community Service month. Do not forget to track your service hours for the annual reports due May 1st.

The Annual 9-Pin Tap Tournament will be hosted by Unit 10 in Wausau. Tournament dates are April 4-5 or April 18-19 at Mountain Lanes, 1401 Elm Street, Wausau, WI, (715) 845-4331. Entries can be sent to Mountain Lanes, Attn: Unit 10 and must be postmarked no later than March 20, 2009.

Also, the **2009 7th District American Legion Bowling Tournament** will be 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.

Dates for the 2009 Tournament are as follows: March 28-29, April 4-5 and April 18-19. There are no shifts for Easter Weekend. Closing date for tournament entries is April 19. A team can come and register through the last day as long as there are open lanes. For example, a team could register on April 19 and still bowl doubles and singles. Opening Ceremonies will be held on March 28 at 11:45 a.m. with the first shift starting at 1200 (noon). All team events will be held on Saturdays, March 28, April 4 and April 18. The shift times are 12:00 (noon) and 3:30 p.m. All Doubles and Singles will be held on Sundays, March 29, April 5 and April 19. The shift times are 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m

On January 19th, in the midway at the Tomah V.A. Hospital we had Operation Home Front packaging. Volunteers packed boxes with various donated items to be sent to the soldiers overseas. Zetta reported it was a huge success! They had an over abundance of help, which included school age children as there was no school that day. And the most rewarding experience was some of the soldiers that had returned from a current tour in

Iraq came to lend a hand. They were able to share what items they most liked to receive and what the needs were there. A huge thank you to all!

With the call up of 3500 Wisconsin National Guard and Reservist, we will all know a family affected by this deployment. Please share the following resources with them:

Wisconsin National Guard Family Program offers: youth programs, marriage enrichment, Military support groups, career opportunities, Family Assistance Centers, tax preparation, discounts, newsletters, family interactive site, etc. (www.wingfam.org/index.asp)

Military One Source offers: a 24/7 resource for Military members, spouses and families; health care, career, crisis, deployments, education, elder care, tax preparation, legal money management counseling, moving, parenting, recreation, relationships, transition, wounded warrior, discounts and special offers, and many more resources. (www.militaryonesource.com)
<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>)

With the large deployment of troops we have a great opportunity to attract more members by showing what we can do for families of our deployed guardsmen. Get in touch with your current members and invite any new members. Please plan to attend the next meeting on March 12th. Hope to see you all there and to see many new faces!

"Happy Saint Patrick's Day"

God Bless America, United We Stand!!

LORI GOLDBECK

Auxiliary President

