



POST 201 INFORMER

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



VOLUME 32, ISSUE 2

1 March 2012

2010-2011 Legion Officers

Commander: Pete Peterson
Adjutant: Gloria Aarness
1st Vice: Todd Steffel
2nd Vice: Dave Goldbeck
3rd Vice: Casey Harp
Finance Officer: Vince Rowan
Chaplain: Bill Rice
Service Officer: John Hubert
Sergeant-at-Arms: Lamont Dechant
Sergeant-at-Arms: Calvin Marcellis
Historian: Vacant

2011-2012 Auxiliary Officers

President: Lori Goldbeck
1st Vice: Pat Flanders
2nd Vice: Helene Stein
Secretary: Michelle Kudlacik
Treasurer: Rita Steffel
Chaplain: Evelyn Noyes
Hospital/Sunshine: Velma Lutz
Sergeant-at-Arms: Betty Scherer
Historian: Sue Prielipp

FROM THE COMMANDER

Donation Request Update: When I sent out my request for donations in December I had no idea what to expect in response. Our financial situation was not good and requesting donations to help cover the upcoming expense of replacing the kitchens hot water pre-heater was necessary. The cost was \$2200.00. Without any donations the Post would have had to cash in one of the two remaining CD's. My thought was any donation would be a great help.

To my surprise donations reached \$4500.00 with 101 Legionnaires making donations. This is the most heart-warming event which I have experienced since I have been a member of Post 201.

The hot water heater was installed by John Shuck with no cost for labor or time involved. If and when you see John please thank him for his efforts which saved us some additional dollars.

Once again, my sincere thanks to all who donated.

Upcoming Activities: 1st Vice Todd has made some plans for fund raising events in the near future. They include an "all you can eat" spaghetti feed on March 15th. The hours will be 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The cost will be \$6.50 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12 years of age. Also planned is a Chicken-Que for the benefit of American Legion Baseball on April 15. The cost is still to be determined with the hours from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The third event is Chicken-Que and Car Show on June 10th with the hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the car show and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the Chicken-Que.

I share these events and dates with everyone so you can mark your calendar and attend one, two or hopefully all three events.

We also continue to hold our monthly fish fry on the first Friday of each month. The cost has been lowered to \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12.

The important of these fund raising events cannot be overstated as the Legion continues to deal with the loss of income from the Tractor Pull and the Fair.

Thank you to Todd Steffel: Todd has stepped up and has been working in the kitchen where he has replaced the old falling apart sink and cabinet. He also has a lot of ideas of projects that need to be worked on when we can. Give Todd your thanks when you see him as he has been doing a really great job.

Projects List: At the next Legion and Auxiliary meeting, I plan on having a short joint meeting where we can collectively brain storm areas that need to be addressed. Come with your ideas and don't be afraid to share them as it is time to dress the Post up again.

Thanks to all for all that you do.

PETE PETERSON
Commander

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WEBSITE UPDATE - We've had 3218 visitors as of Sept 1st, 2008. The address is www.tomahwilegion.org. Check it out on occasion and see what we've been doing. Also visit the Auxiliary Web site at www.amlegionauxwi.org

ADJUTANT

In January, Governor Walker announced **WISCONSIN WORKING**, an effort that puts a heavy emphasis on finding jobs for unemployed Veterans. Under the first phase, the Wisconsin Dept of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and Dept of Workforce Development (DWD) are implementing initiatives to connect unemployed workers with jobs, including:

- Hosting at least 14 career fairs statewide and online job fairs
- Partnering with Dept of Military Affairs to organize an employer educational seminar to inform employers of the benefits of hiring veterans.

There are multiple resources already available:

WDVA can assist. Call 1-800-WIS-VETS or visit www.WisVets.com

The County Veterans Service Officer can assist. Call 269-8726 (Sparta) or visit www.WisVets.com/CSVSO

Contact a Local Veteran's Employment Rep (LVER) or Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP). Visit http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/v_reps_guides.htm

To locate a local job center call 1-888-258-9966 or to see thousands of job listings, go to <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org>

Contact WI National Guard Program: WI Employment Resource Connection at (608) 301-8246 or (608) 301-8247 for help obtaining a skilled trade or occupational license, assistance in furthering educational goals and finding long-term employment.

To speak to someone at the Service Member Support Division, call 1-800-292-9464 or contact www.wisconsinmilitary.org

For Employers looking to hire veterans:

State veterans employment representatives can find employers a veteran with the job skills they require. Call 1-888-258-9966.

The Wisconsin G.I. Bill pays for tuition and fees for veterans at WI technical colleges.

The Returning Heroes Tax Credit provides up to \$5,600 in credits for each unemployed veteran you hire.

The Wounded Warriors Tax Credit provides up to \$9,600 to companies who hire veterans with service-connected disabilities.

I processed 20 membership renewals for 2012 in Jan/Feb. There are still 53 who have not renewed their membership. We have four new members – Scott Molle, John Gillespie, William Davy and Jason Miller. Welcome to Post 201!!! I processed three "Last Bugle" for Arlo Hartley, James Kavanaugh, Thomas Keene and Casper Lamb. Our sympathy to their families.

GLORIA AARNES
Adjutant

VOITURE 804

This is a reminder, send in your American Legion dues first, then think about your 40/8 dues. I have to apologize for not informing all of our members as to what we are doing each month. The trouble I'm having is, our promenade is on the third Wednesday of each month and the Informer goes to print on or about the third Thursday.

Remember, your Promenade is at Tomah Legion Post, on the third Wednesday of each month.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE PROMENADE!!!
ERROL MROTEK
Correspondent



AUXILIARY NEWS

Well before we know it Spring will be here! We have **so far** had a mild winter. I for one am thankful for that! Speaking of Spring it is that time of year again when we formed our nomination committee at the February meeting. If you are interested in one of the office seats please contact Shirley Johnson or Betty Scherer. They will submit the nominees at the March meeting; we will vote in April and install the officers in May.

There are a lot of important decisions being made the next few months so please mark your calendars and join us at the meetings and participate. We appreciate all information, new ideas and support in any way that you can provide.

I want to thank all who donated at the last fish fry on the 50/50 drawing! We appreciate the support as this helps the Auxiliary provide scholarships. Congrats to the last winner and Thank you to all for the help and donations!

Speaking of donations I am proud to report that the Auxiliary turned in 58 pounds of pop tabs! This equates to 25 families' one night stay at the Ronald McDonald House. I need to give Toni Palmer a special thank you for her support in this donation as she had people helping her save the tabs. Thank you all! What a great feeling knowing it makes a difference for a lot of families.

Please mark your calendars. The 7th District Spring Conference will be hosted by North Freedom's Unit 172 on March 24, 2012. If you are interested in attending, please contact one of your officers for more information.

The 7th District Bowling Tournament this year is hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 52, La Crosse on February 18-19 and March 3-4. Unit 173, Whitewater is our host Unit this year for the Annual 9-pin Tap Tournament on April 14-15 & 21-22. This year you can order a t-shirt; if you want to place an order or need more info please contact Anna at (608)225-8579. Deadline is March 1st!

American Legion Auxiliary members are invited to meet National President Kris Nelson June 22 during the tour of the Camouflage Quilt Project or at the Dinner, which are being held in Plymouth, WI. If you are interested in attending please contact Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan at (608)246-9707.

Seymour Unit 106 is hosting a Leadership Workshop on March 31, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Leadership Training is developed for members of the American Legion family. Auxiliary, Junior, Legion, SAL and AL Rider members are all welcome to attend. For questions or more information please contact Joyce Endres at (608)221-1763.

Please do not forget to bring your hours of home service or your information of services for our annual reporting to the next meeting. The reports are now due in MARCH!

There are a lot of activities scheduled at the VA and are in need of volunteers. Please contact Laura Bishop at Voluntary Services if you can volunteer any of your time. Thank you!

I leave you with this last note: Think about the books in a library. Are they all the same? Certainly not. Are all the stories the same genre? Certainly not. Some are serious, some are comical, some are motivational, some are filled with lots of facts and figures. Isn't that like our members? All different; but all valuable. Let's make a special effort to treat each of our own "Books of Knowledge" like the valuable treasures we know them to be!

Please note, the Auxiliary fish fry is March 23rd and if any Auxiliary member or anyone wishes to help that evening give me a call at 374-4180.

Please plan on attending the next meeting, March 8th at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

We Serve Because They Serve
GOD Bless America
LORI GOLDBECK
Auxiliary President



BAR/HALL MANAGER

The Legion pool team finished second in the pool tourney at the fairgrounds. With only two weeks to go in the season, the team is in first place.

As of 22 February, we have 30 hall rentals for 2012 and 1 for 2013. Tell everyone that you know who is planning a special event to call the Legion for any open dates. The website is up-to-date for events planned at the Post.

DAVE GOLDBECK
2nd Vice Commander

FINANCE REPORT

NONE

VINCENT ROWAN
Finance Officer

UPCOMING DATES

MARCH 2012

- 2 **LEGION FISH FRY**
- 8 **Legion/Auxiliary Meetings (7:00 p.m.)**
- 10 Strzelecki/Miller Dance
- 11 Daylight Savings Time (Spring Forward 1 Hour)
- 15 **Spaghetti Feed (5:00-8:00 p.m.)**
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 19 Operation Iraqi Freedom Begins (2003)
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 21 **40et8 Promenade (5:00 p.m.)**
- 23 **AUXILIARY FISH FRY**
- 24 Thursday Night Pool League Party
- 26 **Honor Guard Meeting (7:00 p.m.)**

APRIL 2012

- 1 April Fool's Day/Palm Sunday
- 4 NATO founded (1949)
- 6 **GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY**
- 8 EASTER
- 12 **Legion/Auxiliary Meetings (7:00 p.m.)**
- 15 **ALBB Chicken-Que (11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)**
- 16 INCOME TAXES due
- 18 **40et8 Promenade (5:00 p.m.)**
- 21 Anderson/Waage Wedding
- 23 **Honor Guard Meeting (7:00 p.m.)**
- 25 Spanish-American War begins (1898)
- 28 Zimmerman/Schultz Wedding
- 30 Vietnam War ends (1975)

TOMAH VAMC - HOSPITAL NEEDS

The following items are put in Welcome Tote Bags delivered to all new inpatient admissions. Approximately 100 tote bags are distributed each month.

Welcome Tote Bags (check pattern book)

"Forever" Postage Stamps	Pens	Small Package of Kleenex
1st Class Stamps/.28 stamps	Plain Envelopes (large & small)	Small Shampoo
Combs	Playing Cards (NEW)	Small Toothpaste
Liquid Soap ONLY	Quarters for Veterans	Socks (crew style)
Pencils	Small Bottle of Hand Lotion	Tootbrushes
	Small Deodorant	Writing Tablets

Items below are those enjoyed and used by Veterans during their hospital stay:

After-shave (alcohol free)	Emery Boards	Peanut Butter Cracker Snacks
All-occasion Cards	Female Personal Hygiene Items	Pocket Novels (esp Westerns)
Artificial Lures (casting-any variety)	Frozen Pizza	Polident or Efferdent
Body Wash	Fruit	Pre-shave (for electric shavers- alcohol free)
Bread Machine Mixes	Gloves	Puzzle Books (NEW, esp large print)
Checkers & Domino Sets (NEW)	Golf Balls (new & used)	Reading Glasses
Cheese & Cracker snacks	Graham Crackers	Scarves
Coffee (regular & decaf)	Handkerchiefs	Shampoo (large bottles)
Coffee Creamer	Hard Candy	Shaving Cream
Cookies	Headphones	Shoelaces
Crackers	Jelly	Slippers (various sizes, esp XL)
Crossword & Word Search	Jigsaw Puzzles (NEW)	Stocking Caps
Puzzle Books (NEW esp Large Print)	Lap Robes (see pattern book)	Sugar-free Hot Chocolate Mix
Current Magazines	Liquid Soap ONLY	Sugar-free Kool-Aid
Dictionaries (current edition)	Mouthwash	Sugar-free Lemonade
Disposable Razors	Nail Clippers	Sugar-free Popsicles
Electric Toothbrushes	Peanut Butter	

CANNOT ACCEPT BAR SOAP, IT MUST BE THE LIQUID SOAP ONLY!!!

CANNOT ACCEPT ANY TYPE OF KNIT OR CROCHETED SLIPPERS!!!

Any of the items can be donated in-kind and in any quantities. They will be distributed accordingly to the patient wards and/or clinics. Monetary donations in any amount are also welcome and items will be purchased according to the needs. Monetary donations should be sent to ALA Headquarters in Portage with a notation if you have a particular need you wish to have your donation go to.

If you do not have a pattern book and need a particular pattern, please let me know and I will send it to you. All in-kind donations should be mailed to:

Veterans Administration Medical Center
Ms. Patricia Flanders
American Legion Auxiliary - Bldg 407, Room 1739
500 E Veterans Street
Tomah, WI 54660

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!!