

**DATES
TO REMEMBER**

- December 6, 2011
6:30 pm
S.A.L. Membership Mtg
...
- December 6, 2011
7:30 pm
Membership Meeting
...
- December 7, 2011
County Council
Christmas Party
Tanner-Paull Post 120
...
- December 10, 2011
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Joint Post
Children's Christmas Party
...
- 5:00 pm
Joint Post Christmas Dinner
...
- 8 pm - Midnight
Joint Post Christmas Dance
Music by North Country
...
- December 13, 2011
5:30 pm
House Committee Mtg
...
- December 19, 2011
6:00 pm
Smoker Committee Mtg
7:00 pm
Executive Board Meeting
...
- December 21, 2011
7:00 pm
4th District Meeting
Oak Creek Post 434

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



COMMANDERS CORNER

Walter Pfeiffer

I hope that everyone had a good and filling Thanksgiving and that we have many more. The end of the year is fast approaching. Christmas is almost here and I ask that everyone pray for our service men and women who are in harms way. May they return to their families unharmed, and we hope, quickly.

If you enjoy receiving this award winning newsletter, I must ask that the members who have not paid their membership dues for 2012, do so as soon as possible. Being a member of Post 537 means that information is forwarded to you on a monthly basis. We try to keep you up to date on what is happening within the Todd Post, but also, we try to let you know what is happening on the State and National level.

Our next membership meeting is December 6th at 7:30 pm. We always are happy to see our members at the meetings. A light lunch and refreshments will be served following the meeting. I hope to see many of you at the Post Christmas Party on December 10th.

I also hope and pray that each member of Post 537 has a blessed and safe Christmas Season. May you receive the gift of love from your family, and friends, as Linda and I extend the gift of our love and friendship, as well as God's love to each of you.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1st Vice Linda Pfeiffer

We currently have 264 paid members for 2012. We need to reach 293 for 100%. And, should we exceed that, we will be eligible for cash awards from the 4th District. I love challenges, and really like cash awards. We also have some new members, with eight of them being members who have transferred from the State Holding Post. Welcome to Post 537. We are happy to have you onboard.

We ask that you continue to invite eligible members to join the Legion, and remember to let them know that their wives and daughters can join the Auxiliary, and that their sons can join the Sons of the Legion. Dues for Auxiliary are \$18.00, and the SAL dues are \$10.00.

Dues for 2012 are \$35.00. If you are retired and have been a member of Post 537 for 10 or more years, your dues are \$28.00.

GATORADE DRIVE FOR THE TROOPS

Linda Pfeiffer

Thank you from the troops for all the Gatorade that was collected. We collected close to \$2000.00 in product donations and money donations from the Post, Bar Patrons, Community, Wal-Mart, Husco International, Badger Bank, St Matthias Parish, Legion Post: 415, 416, 427, 219, and the Mighty Fourth District. We also received candy; puzzle books, stuffed animals, other items, and big package of handmade greetings from the students from St Matthias Parish School. And the list goes on. We will continue to collect the powered Gatorade sticks, snack items, personal hygiene products, and other items, as long as we have troops in harms way. An updated list of items is enclosed, so that you know what we can send to the troops. Donations of \$\$'s will be used to purchase needed items on sale. A container will remain in the bar for donations of product, and we will have a container for cash donations. Checks mailed to the post should be marked "Gatorade". Nice job everyone.

We were asked "why Gatorade?" Gatorade helps to replenish the electrolytes for the troops. It has been many years, for most of us, since we carried a heavy pack on our backs, and worn long pants and long sleeved shirts in hot weather, not to mention helmets. While water helps with needed hydration for the body, the Gatorade helps even more. And the medics use it for the troops when they have heat exhaustion.

New Post Member Mindy Sage and I were on the Morning Blend on TMJ4 on November 11th. Mindy was in Iraq, and she explained to the viewers the importance of Gatorade, personal items, and even cookies, and how the "gifts" that were received gave the troops "a feeling of home", while out in the field, and on foreign soil. We thank the Morning Blend for the coverage, and allowing us the time to reach out to the public for help for the Troops, and to honor our Veterans.

FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Wally Pufahl, Doug Kueny, Brian Duerr

On behalf of the Employees and each of us, we wish you a Blessed Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year. The Post will be closed on Christmas Day, to give our employees time to spend with their family and friends. We will also have shorter hours on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. We will be open on New Years Day, so you can come down and see the football games. There are drink specials during the games.

We now have WI-FI in our post building and bar. If you stop in and need to check email, etc, you are able to do so. This is for battery-operated devices only. Robert Fyfe. "our computer guru", has set everything up for all of us.

If you have an event coming up, or know of a family member or friend who is in need of a hall, please remember that we have a hall for rent. Call Julie, our manager, for availability and cost.

We will be giving you an update in the January issue; on the remodeling that will be done in the Post Hall the end of January. Or, better yet, come to the Post Membership meeting to hear our report

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. The "real" St Nicholas lived in the 3rd Century. What was the country that he came from?
 - a. Russia
 - b. Turkey
 - c. England
2. The tradition of the Christmas Tree originated in what country?
 - a. Germany
 - b. yugoslavia
 - c. Belgium
3. The word whisky is derived from Gaelic "uisge beatha". What does this mean?
 - a. breathe deeply
 - b. water of life
 - c. magic elixir
4. The word brandy is derived from the Dutch word "brandewijn". What does this mean?
 - a. brand new
 - b. brown water
 - c. burnt wine
5. Back when buglers were needed and used in their units, during the civil war, how many calls did they have to learn?
 - a. 17
 - b. 27
 - c. 31
6. What is the best known bugle call today?
 - a. Retreat
 - b. Taps
 - c. Reveille

3RD VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Jim Marinkovich

Our Patriotic Coloring Contest winners from St. Matthias Parish School, have been invited to the December Membership meeting to receive their awards.

We visited our "adopted class" at Manitoba School on November 11, 2011. Doug Kueny and I presented the children with school supplies, healthy snacks, and an American Flag. It brought tears to our eyes to see the joy on the childrens faces as we gave them their "gifts".

2ND VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Brian Duerr

Everything is in place for the Annual Todd Post Family, Children's Christmas Party on December 10th, from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Santa has promised to stop by and take time to give each of the children (ages 12 and under) a gift. If you have not yet registered, please contact me immediately. Santa's elves need to get everything wrapped.

Things are also in place for our Annual Family, Dinner at 5:00 pm. Cost is \$5.00 per person for members whose dues are paid for 2012. If you forgot to return you reservation form by November 30th, you must contact me right away, so that I can give a final head count to our wonderful cooks from the Post SAL Squadron. Darryl Wnuk and his crew always do a great job, and no one goes away hungry. You are welcome to bring cookies, or another finger food for dessert. Coffee and tea will be available to help make those cookies go down smoothly. Please be sure to let me know by the December 6th membership meeting, if you are bringing a dessert.

Everyone who attends the dinner is invited to stay for the dance. We will be entertained by "North Country" with a variety of music from the 50's thru the 70's. Fresh popped popcorn will be a treat for us this year, with beer and soda at the dance. Cocktails can be purchased at the Post Bar. If you do not attend the dinner, but wish to come to the dance, there will be a charge of \$10.00 at the door. The dance is open to the public. Invite an eligible Veteran to the dance, he or she may want to join us as a member after they have a good time with all of us.

My contact information is listed on page 7 of this Tattler.

BLOOD PRESSURE PROGRAM

Robert Fyfe and Gretchen Davies

We will continue to have the Blood Pressure Monitoring Equipment at each Membership meeting. We will also have that "dreaded" scale available. And yes, sadly it is accurate. It is important that you keep your Blood Pressure under control. So take advantage of this opportunity to monitor your health.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Nick Berg

If you are aware of a Post Member that has become ill or who has passed away, please let me know as soon as possible so I can take care of what I need to do. If there are any other questions please let me know. My contact information is on page 7 of this newsletter.

UNDERSTANDING SACRIFICES FOR FREEDOM from Military.com

The First Lady and Dr. Biden met with military families, learned about their successes and challenges, and made it their priority to support them. Joining Forces is a comprehensive national initiative to mobilize all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned.

Joining Forces:

**Brings attention to the unique needs and strength of America's military families.

**Inspires, educates, and sparks action from all sectors of our society – citizens, communities, businesses, non-profits, faith based institutions, philanthropic organizations, and government - to ensure veterans and military families have the opportunities, resources, and support they have earned.

**Showcases the skills, experience, and dedication of America's veterans and military spouses to strengthen our nation's communities.

**Creates greater connections between the American public and the military.

In this ongoing effort, they're highlighting issues that are of special importance to the military families they have met with across the country, including the areas of employment, education, and wellness.

Employment. In many cases, military spouses move from one community to another when their spouses are assigned to new duty stations. These transfers can make it very difficult for spouses to continue with their careers or to find similar jobs in new locations.

Joining Forces:

**Highlights the workforce potential of veterans and military spouses;

**Expands employment and career development opportunities for veterans and military spouses; and

**Helps employers create military family-friendly workplaces

Education. Military children move frequently due to a parent's reassignment. These moves can make it difficult to transfer records, secure spaces in courses, stay included in extra-curricular activities, and complete required testing on time.

Joining Forces:

**Supports the academic achievement of military children by helping schools become more responsive to the unique needs of military children and families; and

**Promotes and supports higher education institutions and programs that expand education opportunities, eases transferability for military-connected students, and expands job training opportunities for military spouses and veterans.

Wellness. The stress of war, multiple deployments, and frequent moves can affect the wellness of military families. Children and spouses can experience anxiety, changes in relationships with family and friends, isolation or emotional challenges in dealing with deployments, illness or injury, and high mobility.

Joining Forces:

**Calls attention to the critical issues facing veterans and military families; and

**Expands access to wellness programs, and resources for military spouses and families.

Joining Forces provides ways for all Americans to step up and show their gratitude to our service members and their families. Through this effort, Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden ask Americans to do more for those who have done so much for us. They are highlighting outstanding American citizens, communities, and businesses that are supporting our troops and making commitments to serve our nation's military families. They are asking Americans to get involved in any way they can.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander Bob Sirovina Jr.

Our Halloween Dance was a great success. Thanks to all of our members and members of the 537 Legion Family that helped to make it a great, well-attended and profitable event. I would also like to thank everyone that participated in the Post's Pancake Breakfast on November 13th. Great job everyone!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 pm. To all of our members: Please take the time to attend our meetings. We are already an active and dedicated group of volunteers, but we need your attendance and active participation to make our Squadron even better. Over the past few years, as a small group we have successfully completed many projects that have benefitted our veterans and the community. With greater participation from more of our members, we will continue our tradition of service...For God and Country.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our meetings in the future. I also hope to see many of you at the 537 Legion Family Christmas Party on December 10th. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please feel free to call me at 414-321-1479 or email: durango1@wi.rr.com.

With the Christmas season rapidly approaching, please take time to remember our veterans and those still serving in our military. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Gretchen Davis

"For God & Country we associate ourselves together : "To promote peace and good will on earth." And, of course, now 'tis the season around the world to promote peace on earth. Consider donating time, which is a valuable commodity, during this season. If you are unable to work at a public shelter, food pantry or soup kitchen, assist a neighbor or fellow Legionnaire by chauffeuring them to & from appointments or errands. Make an extra serving when you cook dinner and deliver it to the homebound. Even if you have nothing to bring to a person

who is alone, a visit to break the monotony can lighten a person's mood. If you are able to do heavier work 'tis the season where someone in your life might need assistance with, (I detest saying the word) "snow". Many seniors can no longer shovel their walks, or driveways, but if they are not shoveled on a timely basis, the municipalities they reside in may clean it up for them, at the cost of a fine, or assessment on their tax bill. Bring in the mail for a person who can not walk to the mailbox (when it is not attached to home near the door. Make a phone call, just to say "Hi, how are you today". Take time to sit and read a chapter of a book to a person who can no longer see to read. A chapter a week would brighten a person's day. There are so many things we can do for our Veterans, neighbors, friends, AND home bound family members. Something as simple as asking if you can vacuum, dust, or do the dishes for a person who is suffering from an illness, or just unable to get around well, means so much. AND, please keep track of those volunteer hours and report them to the Post.

Year round is the time to share your time & skills where ever they can be of value! 'Tis the season to find out how easy it is to give!!! The benefits you will reap are boundless. Please keep in mind that help is needed at Post Activities. Can you give time to help at the up-coming Smoker, Poppy Distribution, Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, march in the Memorial Day Parade, help with the Picnic, or Annual Corn Roast? You do not need to help at every function, but if you can commit to help at one event, for a few hours, that help is appreciated. The more help that is available, the easier it is on the Post Officer(s) or committee person who has to facilitate the event.

Please call if you or someone you know needs assistance with any thing!!! I can be reached at 414-731-8240.

Merry Christmas to all of you. Hope to see many of you at the dinner and dance on December 10th.



FUND RAISING

Chair person Gretchen Davies

The Smoker Committee will have had their initial meeting by the time you read this. There will not be a meeting in December so hopefully we will see some of you at the January 16, 2012, 6:00 p.m. meeting.

Call if you have ideas for the big night. Last year there were some new ideas introduced, most of which were a huge success. I am hoping to have even more input this year. This is the main fund raising event for our Post. This helps to fund the cost of the Tattler, mailing, office supplies, and also helps to fund many of our projects.

Remember that Poppy Funds can only be used to help Veterans and their immediate family. Funds that we raise at the Smoker, help to fund Children and Youth projects, Scouting, Badger Boys State, Coloring Contests, and our "adopted 4th grade class". We recently were approached for the donation of a flag for a newly formed Cub Scout Troop. We are able to do this, because we have monies in our account from last years Smoker Event.

To clear up a question that arose last year. Why do we call this a Smoker, when no one can smoke indoors? It is actually a card party - where groups of men and women come in to play cards of their choice (no money allowed on the tables - chips only), and have a good time. When this event started it was named "Annual Smoker", and no one has been able to come up with something different. Got an idea? Let the Executive Board know, and we will talk about it and take it back to the membership for approval.

We will be again asking for donations for the Smoker, of pickles, cheese, sausage, olives, etc. A sign up sheet will be available at the January meeting, should you be able to donate a small, or medium jar of a condiment, or bake cookies, or brownies for dessert. Our SAL Squadron volunteers to cook a delicious lunch for the people attending the event, but donations of small items help to keep the cost down. We also need items that can be raffled during the evening.

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

Mark Sandow - 3rd Vice Commander

Please let me offer my condolences to the family of Gordie Grouse. I was unable to make the funeral due to working late. Gordie took me under his wing and taught me the finer points of being a Post Finance Officer. He was patient, understanding, gave good directions and never lost his temper with me. He got kidded by other members about his trips to Las Vegas or buying a round at the bar. He did a lot of things around the Post, including but not limited to being a Past Post Commander, recording secretary for the House Committee, and the person to go to regarding licenses and insurance and related paperwork for the Post Bar. He cut back on many of his duties so he could spend more time with his wife, Donna. That was a wise choice. Whenever you saw them together, they both seemed like young newlyweds on their honeymoon, both smiling and with a twinkle in their eye. They were both very happy. Gordie will remain in our hearts and minds forever. May he Rest in Peace.

If anyone is able to donate blood for members of Post 18, the sponsor number you need is SPON000587. You may make an appointment at the Blood Center location at 638 N. 18th Street by calling 877-232-4376. This is good for the month of December. All donations would be greatly appreciated. If you happen to be at the Mid-Winter Conference in January, at the Ho-Chuck Casino, there will be a blood drive on Saturday morning, January 21, 2012.

The 4th District Oratorical Contest is scheduled for Sunday, January 15, 2012, at George Washington -Bay View Post 180 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Regional and final Contests are scheduled at Ripon College on February 25, 2012. If you would like to "work" this Oratorical Contest, please let me know. If you know of a student who would like to participate in the Contest, please contact 3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich. There are scholarships awarded to the winners of this contest. Any student who is planning on attending college, should take advantage of this opportunity to win a scholarship.

The Milwaukee County Council will be holding its annual Christmas Party on Wednesday,

CONTACT INFORMATION

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House Committee:
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Doug Kueny - 414-425-0059
Brian Duerr - 414-541-7703

Unit President Sue Middlestead
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S.A.L. Squadron Commander
Robert Sirovia Jr.
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December 7th, at Tanner Paull Post 120, in West Allis. Please contact County Commander Ray "Godfather" Pasbrig at 262-853-4929 for more information, before December 2nd. Cost is \$20.00 a person. Reservations are required.

Speaking of Tanner-Paull; the restaurant is now under new management and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm. They have a brunch on Sundays. Food is very good and the prices are reasonable.

The next meeting of the Mighty 4th District is the annual Christmas Party, on December 21, at Oak Creek Post 434, 9327 S Shephard Ave., starting at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my family: Sue, Eric and his family and SGT. Brian and his family.

See you at the Post, hopefully for the Joint Post Christmas Party on December 10th.

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION

for Children and Youth Programs

Any time you have a bag of cans to be picked up, please contact Commander Pfeiffer. We will be sure to make arrangements to get them from you. Thank you to the members who have called. Every can counts. Last batch of cans we took in netted over \$60.00 toward the Childrens Programs.

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ ANSWERS

1. b. Turkey
2. a. Germany
3. b. water of life
4. c. burnt wine
5. b. 27
6. b. Taps

LAST MAN'S CLUB MEETING NOTICE

All members of the Last Man's Club are asked to be present for the December 6th membership meeting. Immediately following the meeting, we will gather to pay final tribute for Club member Gordy Grouse, and to hear Gordy's final words for us.

Think you may have missing money?

Think that the State is holding on to that money? Did you forget about a Savings Bond, old checking or savings account? Did you move and not let the IRS know? Perhaps you have an elderly parent who has forgotten about a bank account or Savings Bond.

Search: www.statetreasury.wi.gov for information. It is really very easy to do. It also has a link to the National Treasury Website. Don't have internet access? Call Carla vogue at 608-266-0517.



TAPS

Gordon Grouse
November 11, 2011
Army - Korea

Our sympathy to Donna and his family.

TODD POST BRAG PAGE



Jim Marinkovich and Doug Kueny on November 11, 2011 with our adopted 4th grade class at Manitoba School.



Two of the five Badger Boys that the Todd Post sponsored, with 3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich and Commander Pfeiffer.



Presented to the Post

Donation of an POW / MIA banner for the outside of the Post Building from Post members Mick Wischer, Larry Millard, Mike Flairty, and Dave Wischer.



Blood Pressure Screening Award Plaques for all their hard work to Robert Fyfe and Gretchen Davies from the VA Staff.



Donated Gatorade for the Troops



Pancake Breakfast on November 11, 2011