



The Todd Tattler



Official Publication of the Harold A. Todd Jr., Wisconsin Motor Post 537

December 2009 Member of WALPA
Volume 2 Issue 5

9159 W. Beloit Rd., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53227 414-543-2030
Monthly Publication

Commander Brian Duerr 414-541-7703

Service Officer Nick Berg 414-698-3181

Todd Post Website: www.toddpost537.org



COMMANDERS CORNER

As I write this article for the Todd Tattler, some of you are making your final preparations for deer hunting. By the time you receive the Tattler you will have already returned from the hunt, successful and safe, I hope. I also hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and did not eat to much.

I also wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

I would like to thank all the members and family members who attended our Post Everlasting and those who helped with the ceremony honoring our fellow Legion members who passed away this past year.

I also thank all of you who purchased raffle tickets for our Children, Youth & Veterans Benefit Fund. Congratulations to the first place winner, Wally Pfeiffer. You will find a complete list of winners in this issue of the Tattler.

I attended the S.A.L Halloween dance on October 31, 2009. The dance appeared to be a success for the S.A.L and it appeared that those

who attended had a good time.

Our next membership meeting is on December 1, 2009 at 7:30 pm. Please make an effort to attend. We will be electing delegates to the Mid-Winter conference being held in Wisconsin Dells the end of January. All Legion members are welcome to attend the conference and this includes your family.

Commander Brian Duerr
414-541-7703
brianduerr@hotmail.com

LETS SAY THANKS.COM

Xerox is doing something cool. There is no cost to anyone. If you are able access the internet, click on www.LetsSayThanks.com, and you can pick out a thank you card for our soldiers overseas. Xerox will print it, and send it to a soldier serving our nation.

You cannot pick out a specific soldier, but Xerox has names and addresses of our military. Wouldn't be wonderful if our military personnel, who are away from home protecting us, and our nation, each get a bunch of cards for the Christmas Holidays. This is a great way to show them we care about them.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As I write this article, I want to thank the 249 members who have paid their dues for 2010. This brings us to 77.5 % of our membership paid. This is great. Thank you. Now I have to ask that the remainder of our members submit your dues as soon as you can please. We hope to reach 100% by the Christmas Holidays.

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS, please email, or call me and advise where you are stationed so that this information can be passed along to the "Active Duty" committee chairperson.

1st Vice Commander Linda Pfeiffer
262-784-2807 and Editor
waltlindapfeiffer@sbcglobal.net

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Hello everyone. There are some interesting facts about Veteran unemployment and benefits below. Please see the article which explains it in detail. As always 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 at the end of the article. Thank You!

Veterans Employment Benefits Update
A recent change in the laws for Veterans Employment benefits now means that more people who served in the armed forces are eligible for Veterans Employment benefits. Anyone who served on active duty at least 180 consecutive days, unless those days were for training, and those days started on or after September 11, 2001, is eligible for Veterans Employment benefits.

If your discharge is anything but Dishonorable and you served on active duty in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized, you also are entitled to Veterans Preference even if you don't have the 180 days of consecutive service. Any Armed Forces Expeditionary or campaign badge qualifies you for the preference. For more information visit OPM's Veterans Employment Information page.

Jobless Rate Hits 11.2% for Veterans
The economic downturn has hit returning Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans harder than other workers according to the Labor Department. The unemployment rate for veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan is 11.2%, significantly higher than the 8.8% rate for non-veterans. A 2007 survey of nearly 2,000 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans who left the service in 2005/2006, showed employment rates and wages lower for these vets than their civilian peers; with 18% unemployed, and of those employed since leaving the military, half of the veterans aged 20-24 earn less than \$25,000 a year. Many have had trouble finding a job that matches their military occupation. Nearly half (48.4%) took advantage of their GI Bill benefits, but the study did not find that using the GI Bill benefit led to higher paying or better jobs. This 2007 study is available online.

Please note that we have a dedicated group of members who are willing to honor your loved one at his / her funeral. However, if we do not know your loved one has passed into the arms of the Great Commander, we cannot give this honor to him / her. If you wish to be called to be part of the "honor team" please let me know.

Service Officer Nick Berg
Home: 414-329-8184
nberg99@yahoo.com
Cell: 414-698-3181

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. Which settlers brought bowling to America?
a. French b. Dutch c. English
2. Which State grows more oranges and grapefruits than any other State in the U.S..
a. California b. Texas c. Florida
3. Which State does not share a border with Canada.
a. Michigan b. Oregon c. Idaho
4. "Foggy Bottom" is the nickname for?
a. U.S. State Department b. U.S. Treasury
c. FBI Secret Service
5. American Indians taught settlers in Rhode Island to make "Johnny Cake". What is this food called today?
a. waffles b. pancakes c. corn bread

POST BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING Power Program

Our Legion Post's involvement in the POWER program continues! The POWER (Posts Working for VetERans Health) Program is a study which will compare two ways to help people learn how to control their high blood pressure. As part of this study, Gretchen and I are required to give a short presentation at every Legion Meeting - each on a variety of topics.

The topics that will be presented at the next meeting will be "Eating Out" & "Exercise Bands". Here's a brief explanation of the topics to be presented:

Eating Out. You probably know that having a Double Quarter Pounder with cheese, a large fry and a 20-ounce Coke for lunch is not health food, but just how bad is it? And what are some better choices? At the next post meeting,

Gretchen and I are going to provide you information about what you are eating when you go out. After all, knowledge is POWER!! We will also come up with strategies you can use so that your healthy diet does not go out the window when you go to your favorite restaurant.

Exercise Bands. Although it is hard to beat walking for keeping you fit and flexible, there are a lot of benefits to improving your strength as well. In the next POWER session Gretchen and I will demonstrate how using an exercise band can strengthen and tone your muscles. Strengthening exercises lower your blood pressure, help control your weight and decrease your risk of falls. Although there are a lot of days when it is too hot, too cold, or too snowy to take a comfortable walk around the block, you can always take out an exercise band and do some healthy and safe strengthening exercises. There are a few things to look out for, and it always helps to have someone show you how to use a band the first time you try it, so be sure to come to the Post meeting when we will give out some exercise bands and show you how to use them.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.
Robert Fyfe
414-208-9731 (cell phone)
RFYFE@WI.RR.COM

CHILDREN - YOUTH - VETERANS FUND RAISER

The Children & Fund Raiser drawing was held November 11, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Post Bar. Please see list of winners on the back of the Christmas Party Reservation form.

A Post Member asked what the funds from this Fund Raiser are used for. We adopted a 4th grade class at Manitoba school on 43rd & Forest Home. Many of the students in this class are challenged, and come from homes where

funds are very limited. From these funds students received much needed school supplies.

We are giving Savings Bonds to the 1st and 2nd place winners for the coloring contest currently being held at St Matthias School. We have held the patriotic coloring contest for the last two years, and the savings bonds are not only valuable to the students who win them, but appreciated by the parents of these students.

We received a verbal inquiry (which needs to be in writing) for a scouting troop who needs help.

If any member has a request for funds for children and youth projects, or a special need for a Veteran, please put the request in writing to the attention of the Benefit Fund Committee. We will review it and make a recommendation to the Executive Board. Then the request is presented to the Membership for approval. The committee consists of 12 people from the "Post Family".

CHAPLAIN'S NOTE

Greetings and Happy Thanksgiving to all of you & your families. Please remember our ill, injured, housebound members & those active duty members and relatives that are away from home in your thoughts and prayers.

Another set of care packages will be sent out the weekend of Thanksgiving. If you know ANYONE who is deployed to a police or war zone please provide an APO/FPO address so a package can be sent. We support ALL military. State records indicate that there are over 3500 WI National Guard members currently deployed, I am sure that some of you must know some of them.

On the coat tails of Thanksgiving is the Pearl Harbor anniversary. Please remember our fallen heroes; commemorate ALL those who gave the

ultimate service to our country, no matter the day it was given. Bear in mind: if we let that terrible day gather dust in history books it may be repeated.

NOT lastly: Zablocki V.A. Center is hosting the 21st Annual "Christmas with Hospitalized Vets" on 12/12/09. There is a statewide call for baked goods & snacks to feed the attendees; and door prizes such as new gloves, hats, socks, walkmans. music cds, electronic games (and the batteries to run them!) You can notify me if you have a donation, and I can collect your donations and deliver them to the hospital.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to everyone!!!!
Hope to see many of you at the miscellaneous activities at Post 537 on December 12th.

Chaplain Gretchen Davies
414-227-4301

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

This is being written before Thanksgiving. I just want to ask that everyone take the time to give Thanks for all that you have. We all are going thru some really tough times but be thankful you are alive and as well as can be expected. Remember someone, somewhere has it a whole lot worse than you and me. We are truly fortunate.

Let me say a few words on Membership. Yeah, I know you hear it all the time. When I was Post Commander, we had 100% membership for both years. I want to thank you ALL for that. In 2008-09, this Post was one of two Posts in the District to make 100% membership prior to December 31st. More Posts in the District are striving to meet 100% membership. As 4th Chair Vice-Commander for the 4th district, I would like to see the Todd Post at 100% by Christmas. We are so close, but yet so far away. To all of you

BUSINESS NEWS

from the Manager

who have paid up for 2010, thank you. To all of you that haven't, there's still time, but it's getting short. I'd like to see Commander Brian get his 100% membership pin for his Legion hat. How about you? I'd like to thank State Vice Commander Marv Brozinski and 4th District Commander Wayne Jensen for attending the Post Everlasting Ceremony at our November membership meeting. The next 4th District meeting / Christmas Party will be held at Post 416, on Grange Ave., on Wednesday, Dec. 16th, at 7:30 pm. All are invited to attend.

From my family: Sue, Eric and (E-6 promotable) Sgt. Brian, and myself, we wish each of you and your family, a Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year.

See you at the Post. Mark Sandow
Post Historian and 4th District Vice-Commander
414-545 0409- Home
414-418-0993-Cell

AUXILIARY NEWS

Already the holidays are upon us, it is unbelievable that they came so fast this year. The Auxiliary is very happy to be working together so closely with the Legion and SAL, we have accomplished much this past year. Working together we will be able to accomplish even more than we realize. We want to wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season, don't eat too much turkey or Christmas candy.

December 12th is our Children's Party and annual Christmas dinner and dance, I hope everyone can attend. Even though we don't meet during the holidays you can still contact me with any ideas or projects that you may think useful to us. We need everyone's participation to be able to accomplish great things. Happy Holidays to all.

Auxiliary President Sue Hembrook
262-843-4791- Genesuehem@wi.rr.com

To all our Patrons, members and employees, I wish each of you and your families a Very Merry Christmas, Happy and Prosperous New Year. I also want to thank all of you for your patronage throughout the year, at the Bar, Post events, Corn Roast, Oktoberfest and all other functions held at the Post.

On a personal note: I thank everyone for their concerns, prayers and well wishes while I have been under the weather. I appreciate all the kind words and inquiries.

Manager Bill Martin

LEGION FAMILY CHILDREN & YOUTH PROJECTS

Many of us purchase Campbell's Products, and also General Mills Products with BoxTops for Education. On many of these products there are labels (points) for education. The Legion Family is adopting Franklin and Madison Schools in West Allis to help in the LABELS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS. This benefits the children of the school with items for sports and other educational programs. We are asking all of our Legion Family members to take off the Labels from Campbell's Products, and General Mills products and bring them to the Post. We will have a box for you to put the labels in. The schools also get educational benefits for McDonald's receipts.

Helping the youth of our local area is a priority and this is a simple way that we can all contribute to a worthwhile cause. If you have labels, but cannot bring them to the Post, please contact Diana Sirovina at 414-321-1479 so arrangements can be made to pick up the labels, or they can be mailed to the Post: attn: Diana Sirovina.

UNDERWEAR FOR VETERANS.

In the Post bar there is a barrel for a putting New WHITE, packaged T-Shirts and Underwear and White Socks (all adult sizes are needed) for 300 plus hospitalized Veterans at the Zablocki VA Medical Center. The S.A.L. squadron is sponsoring this drive, and are also accepting cash donations for the needed items. Jockey International will match all funds that are collected, which expands our purchasing power for much needed items for our hospitalized Veterans.

To those who have already contributed cash or clothing, including the cash donation from the Legion, thank you. We plan to make the delivery to the VA Center in time for the Christmas Holidays.

PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

I'm a recruiter for the 2010 Census and the Census is looking for people to work for it. These would be jobs that would start, for the most part, around March/April 2010/ They're ideally-suited for people looking for part-time work. Listed below are a few key points that would be of interest to note about the jobs:

- Good pay
- Temporary, part-time jobs
- Flexible hours, up to 40-hrs./week
- Mileage reimbursement for in-the-field jobs

Veterans are entitled to bonus consideration in the application process. The local phone numbers for the West Allis Census Office is listed below. Please call to get set-up for the times and places of the pre-employment exam. 414-944-0650 or 414-944-0630.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the office and someone there will be able to help you.

Bill Eggener
2010 Census Recruiting Assistant

FINANCE REPORT

There have been questions regarding the income and expenditures of Post funds. Please note that the "Post Bar" is a business and as such, income and disbursements for the business are governed by State and Federal Laws. If you have questions on these funds, ask for information at a Membership Meeting.

Membership funds cover the operation of the Post itself - Newsletter printing, mailing, Christmas Party, Picnic, etc.

Poppy Funds are strictly for Veterans and Active Duty personnel needs. Example: Care Packages, gifts or donations to Camp American Legion, T-shirts, etc. for Zablocki VA Med Ctr.

AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST

This contest is open to High School Students, whether enrolled in a public or private school or home schooled. If you know a student who is interested in participating in the contest, please contact 3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich. There are several scholarships that are awarded in this contest, and with today's economy, every student planning on attending school after high school graduation can use a scholarship to help with the cost of education.

Participants in the American Legion Oratorical Contest develop leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and are better prepared for the acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, for the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

A single main speech topic related the United States Constitution will be required with a length of 8 to 10 minutes, as well as an "Assigned Topic" that must consume 3 to 5 minutes of presenter's delivery.

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 - Blood Pressure Screening 6:30 - S.A.L. Meeting 7:30 Post Membership Meeting	2	3	4	5
6 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Post 416 6:30d & Grange	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 6:30 - House Committee Mtg War declared on Japan	9	10 Human Rights Day	11 Germany & Italy declared War on the U.S.	12 Childrens Christmas Party Post #416/54L Christmas Dinner and Dance
13		14 7:00 pm - Ex Bd Meeting Bill of Rights Day	15 7:30 - 4th District Meeting Battle of the Bulge	16	17	18
20 1st Day of Winter	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve BAR CLOSES AT 4:00 pm	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS POST BAR CLOSED	26
27	28	29	30 New Years Eve Official End of WWII 1946	31		

December 1, 2009

- 6:30 pm - VA Blood Pressure Screening
- 6:30 pm - S.A.L. Meeting - Wimmer Room
- 7:30 pm - Post Membership Meeting

December 12

- 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Legion Family Children's Christmas Party - Cramer Hall - reservations required
- 5:00 pm - Legion Family Post Dinner - followed by a Post dance / Social reservations are required for dinner

December 7 PEARL HARBOR DAY

December 8

- 6:30 pm - House Committee Meeting

December 15

- 7:00 pm - Executive Board Meeting - Cramer Hall

December 16

- 7:30 pm - 4th District Christmas Party
Greendale Post 416 - 6351 W, Grange Ave
All Legion members welcome

December 19

- 12:20 - 5:00 pm - Post Bar Christmas Party

December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

- THE BAR WILL CLOSE at 4:00 pm

December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS

- The Post Bar will be closed

December 31 - NEW YEARS EVE

- THE BAR WILL CLOSE at 6:00 PM

January 1, 2010 - HAPPY NEW YEAR

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ ANSWERS

1. b. Dutch - we can also thank the Dutch for windmills, tulips and clogs.
2. c. Florida - oranges were introduced to Florida by Spanish settlers. Grapefruits arrived from the West Indies.
3. b. Oregon - whose neighbor to the North - the State of Washington - shares a border with Canada.
4. a. U.S. State Department - whose offices were built in a former swamp in Washington D.C.
5. c. Corn Bread - originally made as flat cakes of cornmeal dough baked in ashes.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Call for your FREE estimate!

\$20 OFF



BORTH-WILSON, INC.

PLUMBING * REMODELING * CARPENTRY

262-781-6466

3270 N. 126th St. Brookfield * www.borthwilson.com

Mention this ad and receive \$20 off plumbing service or 5% off remodeling
* Maximum \$100 discount * Not valid with any other offer

DJ/KARAOKE KEVIN

DJ and/or KARAOKE SERVICE AVAILABLE

GREAT SOUND SYSTEM/FANTASTIC LIGHT SHOW

REASONABLE PRICES

WEDDINGS- - BIRTHDAYS- - ANNIVERSARIES
PRIVATE OR CORPORATE EVENTS
WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN

Now with a gas generator, you can be held anywhere: a park, a school, etc.

Phone: 414-303-3265

E-mail: karaokekevin@usa.com

Recorded Show Schedule: 414- 545





Suburban
Asphalt Co., Inc.

Since 1965

11251 W. Forest Home Ave.
Franklin, Wisconsin 53132
(414) 425-5353

H.A. Todd Jr. Post 537
9159 W. Beloit Rd
Milwaukee, Wi 53227

2006-2007 Past State Commander
Charles Cooney

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Permit No 5038

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The December membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm on December 1, 2009.

S.A.L. Commander Danny Key
414-541-8386

POST CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 12th from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in Cramer Hall, for those members who sent in reservation forms Shopping was done based on reservations, so if you did not send one, plan for next year please.

POST CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Post Christmas Party will be held on December 12th from 5:00 pm until midnight. Dinner will be by reservation only and will be \$5.00 per person. The dinner is open to ALL Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members and spouses. Your dues must be paid for 2010.

Following the dinner there will be a dance

with music by North Country (50's and 60's) music. One of the members of the band is a Post Member. The dance is free to all adult members of the Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L members whose dues are paid for 2010.

POWER LIFT CHAIR AVAILABLE

One of our Post Family members has a Power Lift Chair (electric) that is available to any Legion family member who is in need of this type of chair. Please contact 1st Vice Linda Pfeiffer at 262-784-2807, if you, or someone you know can use this chair. It will be delivered by Post members to the home of the person needing it.



Ronald B Gruettner
November 2, 2009
Army
Korean War



We extend our sympathy to his family.
May he rest in Peace in the Arms of the Great
Commander of us al