



The Todd Tattler



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

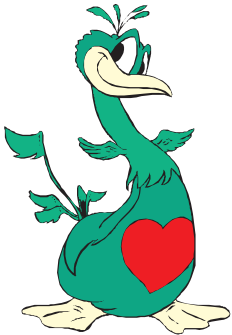
February 2010 Member of WALPA & NALPA
Volume 2 Issue 7

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

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COMMANDERS CORNER

Here we are in a new year. Where did the last year go? Right off the bat the big question was, will we call it Twenty Ten or Two Thousand and Ten. I guess that is an individual choice. I hope every one had a blessed Christmas Holiday.

Now that the new year is here, I am asking you for your help and support. You can help and support our Legion Post in many different ways. First means of support is being a member of the Legion Post, by just paying your dues. Second way of support is to attend the monthly membership meetings, and be aware of what is happening in the Post, and voicing your concerns. Third means of support is to help in our fund raising efforts such as the Post Smoker on March 5, 2010, either by purchasing or selling sweepstakes tickets or coming and helping out on that night. Also, attending one of our dances, the pancake breakfast or our summer picnic. Also, when possible, participating in fund raising for the many projects that the American Legion is involved in, like our Children and Youth Fund, or our Community Fund. There are many ways of helping. Community Service is an important way of supporting Veterans Programs. If you drive someone to an appointment; go shopping for a person, or take them shopping; shoveling

snow, or cleaning a home; involvement with scouting, or tutoring a child; and involvement in

your parish Church. There are so many ways we can help Veterans, Veterans families and our local community, and we don't always think about it - we just do it. Please keep track of your volunteer hours and be sure to turn those hours into the adjutant for our Annual Post Reports. If you have questions, contact one of the Officers and we can help to give you information on how you can help the Post and Legion Programs.

The monthly membership meeting for March will be held on Sunday, March 7, 2010, starting at 12:00 noon. We hold one membership meeting on a Sunday during the day, each year, so members who are unable to come to our nightly meetings can attend at least one meeting a year. This is also the Annual initiation for any member who has never been initiated. For this March Meeting, I would appreciate help from all the Past Commanders of the Post. Please advise if you are able to attend and assist in the Initiation ceremony.

Our next membership meeting is Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

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

ADJUTANTS MESSAGE

Enclosed in this Todd Tattler is a form for Initiation of new members, or anyone who has never been initiated. Also a form for members who have 5 or 10 continuous years in the Legion, will be presented with embroidered stars for their Legion Hats. Members who have 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 or 60 years in the Legion, will receive stars and certificates, Please let me know by March 1, 2010 at the Post Address or email me (in the subject line put in Initiation or Continuous Membership) and advise if you are planning on attending the March Membership Meeting, so that I can have everything ready for you. If I do not hear from you, stars and certificates will not be available on March 7th.

Adjutant Wanda Fremut
wfremut@yahoo.com

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

There have been a few questions from some of our members about my last article about new benefits for Agent Orange affected Veterans. The information has been coming out slowly because it is new legislation. I have more info for you and will continue to update you as I get it.

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!

New Agent Orange Benefits

1/8/10 - The VA is expected to issue new Agent Orange benefits regulations soon in response to a ruling as a result of a San Francisco court decision related to the Nehmer court case. NAUS expects about a 20% increase in VA

benefits awards for those who served in Vietnam and were exposed to Agent Orange with presumed service connected disabilities (an estimated 185,000 additional veterans / survivors).

Three additional conditions - Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease and B-cell leukemias - have been added to the list of illnesses presumed to have been caused by exposure to Agent Orange. The VA had already ruled the following conditions were "presumptive" regarding exposure to Agent Orange: Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy; Chloracne; Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia; Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2); Hodgkin's Disease; Multiple Myeloma; Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; Porphyria Cutanea Tarda; Prostate Cancer; Respiratory Cancers, and Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma).

This means that veterans who suffer from one of these diseases are entitled to service - connected disability compensation from the VA as long as they stepped foot on land in Vietnam during active duty at any time between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. It does not matter when the condition or disease first appeared. Thus, a Vietnam veteran who is diagnosed with ischemic heart disease 50 years after discharge from service will become entitled to VA disability compensation benefits. In order to assist with claims processing and backlog, NAUS has learned that the VA will accept letters from family physicians supporting claims for the new Agent Orange related conditions.

Death benefits (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)) are also being expanded, and will be available to qualifying surviving family members of Vietnam veterans who have died, or who die in the future, from one of the 3 new presumptive diseases. Thousands of widows whose husbands died of Agent Orange disabilities will likely benefit from

retroactive benefits payments. Additionally, many Vietnam vets with retiree status may also be eligible for tax exempt Combat Related Special Compensation of up to \$3000 monthly, in the case of 100% agent Orange disability including retroactive back pay.

The VA will review its records and identify all Vietnam veterans and survivors of Vietnam veterans who filed a compensation claim in the past for one of the 3 new presumptive conditions. Each of these prior claims will be reevaluated under the VA's new rules. If the claim is granted, the VA will generally pay benefits retroactive to the date the VA received the first claim. An estimated 86,000 claims previously denied by the VA before 1985 will be revisited.

According to OMB, the VA expects to pay nearly \$50 billion in additional benefits due to these long overdue changes in Agent Orange exposure related conditions, with \$14 billion expected to be paid related to heart disease alone.

What You Should Do Now: The VA will not begin to pay benefits for any of the new conditions until issuing its new Agent Orange regulations, which NAUS expects as soon as later this month. And the claims review process usually takes months before benefits are approved and start. But if you are a Vietnam veteran who suffers from one of these diseases or conditions, or a qualifying surviving family member of a Vietnam veteran who died from one of them, NAUS advises you to take action now.

If you are a Vietnam veteran who suffers (or a survivor of a veteran who died) from one of the 3 new presumptive conditions and you have not previously filed a VA disability or death compensation claim, you should file a VA claim for service-connected disability compensation (or DIC) for the disease immediately. Any VA benefits you are found eligible for will be paid retroactive to the date the VA first received your

claim. This means that for every month you delay in filing your claim, you will not be entitled to VA compensation for that month.

If you already filed a VA disability or death compensation claim for one of these new presumptive conditions, you should file another claim with the VA for service-connected disability compensation (or DIC) for the disease/condition. This will help protect you from the possibility that the VA will interpret your previous claim as a pension claim instead of a compensation claim, or as being for a disease other than one of the three new diseases.

Both the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Health Administration expect to be deluged by an increase in new claims. NAUS encourages its members and potential new members to contact the NAUS staff, assisted by NAUS board member Win Reither, Col, USAF (Ret), to stay tuned for updates, as well as progress reports of the VA claims handling.

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As I write this article, I want to thank the 272 members who have paid their dues for 2010. This brings us to 83.7 % of our membership paid. Our goal is 321 (based on our ending membership numbers on June 30, 2009) We need 49 more members to reach this goal. Because we lost many of our members to the Arms of the Great Commander during the 2009 year, we need to recruit new members as well. If you know someone who is eligible to join the Legion, please invite them to attend one of our meetings and hopefully they will fill out an application and join. We also need to recruit those men and women who have served in the current conflict

period. If you know of an Active Duty member who would like to be part of our Post, please ask him or her to join the Legion.

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

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. What Presidents beloved wife and mother passed away the very same day?
 - a. Teddy Roosevelt
 - b. William F Taft
 - c. Woodrow Wilson
2. Which State borders the Atlantic Ocean?
 - a. North Dakota
 - b. South Carolina
 - c. West Virginia
3. Which African-American civil rights leader campaigned twice for the Presidency of the United States?
 - a. Jessie Jackson
 - b. Martin Luther King
 - c. Malcolm X
4. How many stars do the highest ranked Army Generals wear on their uniforms?
 - a. 4
 - b. 6
 - c. 5
5. Name the only State whose Capital City is located on the Mississippi River.
 - a. Jefferson City, MO
 - b. St Paul, MN
 - c. Springfield, IL

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hello everyone we hope you are enjoying this fine Wisconsin winter, if not maybe you should have moved to California, where you could enjoy all the brush fires, followed by all the rain and finally the mud slides. But, seriously we know we all stay around because we love one another. Boy, I guess I'm

getting a little soft as I grow older. O.K. now on with the report.

Our Post Manager, Bill Martin is home recovering and is feeling better. His daughter Julie is now taking care of his job responsibilities and is doing a fine job. The remodeling that we talked about for Cramer hall is being put on hold as we have been made aware of a problem with the foundation. Because of that information we are now seeking bids for the kitchen, which was next on the list of priorities. We hope to have that completed before the Smoker.

We now have a new person operating our message board, post member, Robert Fyfe. If you have an event that needs to be put on the message board please see the House manager, or one of the Committee members so that your event message can be displayed. Please do not call Rob with all this information as all messages must be cleared through the Committee, and he is employed and cannot be contacted for messages on the Reader Board. The House Committee would like to thank Jim Mc Alindon for all his help over the years placing messages on the Board. Jim stepped forward when we needed help and he is truly appreciated.

I guess that is all for now, don't forget there is a cold beer or your favorite drink, with your name on it at the post so come out and enjoy your clubhouse.

House Committee Chairperson, Dave Wischer

CHILDREN - YOUTH - VETERANS FUND RAISERS

The Committee needs help and lots it. Within the next five to six weeks we will be holding two events.

Enclosed in this news letter you will find a book of (6) six tickets for our annual Post Smoker. The cost of the tickets is \$1.00 each or a book of (6) six for \$5.00. More tickets are available at the Post Bar, or you can call one of the numbers listed on the enclosed letter, or contact any Officer, and someone will get you more tickets. We are also in

need of door prizes big or small, it doesn't matter, we raffle it all. The letter included with this mailing, explains what the Smoker is about, but if you have questions please ask.

Secondly, we are starting a new fund within the Post. This will be the "Community Outreach Fund". With this fund we hope to assist others in a time of need. We are kicking off this fund raising event, Saturday March 13th. We will be having a number of bands to provide entertainment for the day, along with many food items being sold, and raffles being held. Details will be in the March Tattler. It is the hope of this Committee that we can raise money so that the Post can extend a helping hand to those within the Post and also the surrounding community who may need financial assistance.

So check your calendars Todd Post Members, and remember to attend one if not both of these fine events as we Veterans continue to serve our country but just a little closer to home. Don't forget to buy those smoker tickets and get extra tickets, to sell to your neighbors and friends

Fund Raising Chairperson
Dave Wischer

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 "Hypertension Myths" & "Health Support". Here's a brief explanation of the topics to be presented:

Hypertension Myths

When it comes to your health, there's a lot of information out there. But there's also a lot of mis-information! Be sure to attend our next meeting when Gretchen and I will talk about some common MYTHS about blood pressure, including:

"Your blood pressure should be 120/80 or lower."

"If you need more than one pill, you have severe high blood pressure."

"High blood pressure causes diabetes."

"Drinking too much regular coffee will give you hypertension."

The actual facts might surprise you, but you can check them out with your doctor or on the web. At the meeting, Gretchen and I will lead everybody through a short quiz and hand out a great booklet about managing high blood pressure. Gretchen and I will also provide a handout on these myths so you can share them with your family.

Health Support

Do people who have supportive family or friends live longer, healthier lives? There is good scientific evidence that says "yes." And people dealing with chronic health conditions are better off if their family members learn how to be supportive. After all, most activities that affect our health—meals, physical activity, taking medication—happen at home or in the presence of family or close friends, not in a doctor's office.

At our next post meeting, Gretchen and I will lead a discussion to discover ways that you use to work with your family and friends to give and receive health support. Gretchen and I will describe a contest with the other POWER Posts that encourages members to sign up a friend or family member to share some healthy activity via

the "Health Buddies" program. The Posts that have the most members who sign up will have an opportunity to win a *cash prize.* The more people who attend and participate, the better our chances of winning!!!

Thanks to your continued participation and support in the POWER program, our Post was listed in 1st place (Central Region) for 1st and 2nd Qtr of 2009!! It's our sincere hope that we can continue this distinction for the duration of the POWER program.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Robert Fyfe
414-208-9731 (cell phone)
RFYFE@WI.RR.COM

CHAPLAIN'S NOTE

Happy & Healthy New Year everyone. Please remember all our deployed & homebound members, and our Post Manager, Bill Martin, in your prayers.

Congratulations to the S.A.L. squadron on their marvelous fund raiser for our own Zablocki Hospital residents. It is heartwarming to see such response to this project. So many needy Veterans at Zablocki received gifts of much needed underwear items during the Holiday Season. This will continue for several months, as the clothing is kept on each floor of the hospital, and as Veterans are admitted to the Hospital, they are given the clothing, if they need them. The Patient Advocates at the Hospital really take care of our Veterans in need.

Another round of care packages will be sent this week, hopefully in time for Valentine's Day delivery. Then a series of boxes will go for Easter delivery. If you want to include notes or cards; or make donations I will gladly include them. Items can be dropped off at meetings or I can pick them up from your home. Please visit

our fabulous website for the list of what is currently being sent. I have not had any feedback on the contents so will continue to send snack food items and some of the puzzles and games that were donated in December. If you know anyone that is deployed please confirm their APO/FPO address for future packages and get information on what they might want or need in the package; remember, they do not have to be a member or relative of a member of the Post. We send packages to anyone in a war or police zone.

Chaplain Gretchen Davies
414-227-4301

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

This column is being written far enough in advance so I can't tell you about the Mid-Winter. However, I can tell you that the Oratorical Contest was cancelled because the 4th district did not have anyone to participate. Doesn't say much for us, eh? No post, in the District, has made 100% membership yet, but there are 4 posts very close. NO-O-O, we are not among the 4. However, that means we still have a chance to be the first if everyone pays up soon.

National is looking for needy veterans who want to have a team work on their house; similar to Habitat for Humanity. The work would be done in time to have the National Commander drive in the last nail during the National Convention held here in Milwaukee later this year. Also, they are looking for young people interested in organizing a 5K run during the same time frame. If you know of anyone who might qualify, please let me know and I will pass the info on to 4th District Commander. Badger Boys State will be held at Ripon College June 12th - June 19th. Anyone interested may contact 3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich.

Four Chaplains Sunday will be celebrated Sunday February 7th at Motousek Chapel, at the

Zablocki VA center, beginning at 2:00 pm. There is a member of Post 416 who served on the U.S.S. Dorchester on that fateful day. He attended the service last year and was very moved by it all as were most of the attendees there.

Commander Danny Key from the S.A.L. said that the Auxiliary and S.A.L. had their first meeting regarding the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast. I met with the new liaison for the City of West Allis Memorial Day Parade. She has sent invitations to approximately 65 different organizations to march in the parade. Sounds great. On my agenda is making contact with WMIL FM 106.1 to see what it would take to get them to broadcast at the Post on Memorial Day. I am not holding my breath on this, but we have to try. It's nice to see Past State Commander Chuck Cooney up and about after his knee surgery. He'll be marching again in no time.

The next 4th District meeting will be held at Oeschlager/Dallmann Post 434, Wednesday, February 17th at 7:30 pm.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks for all your continued support.

Mark Sandow
Post Historian and 4th District Vice-Commander
414-545 0409

MESSAGE FROM CHUCK COONEY

Thank you for all the well wishes, phone calls, emails, and concern while I was out with knee surgery and recovery. I really appreciate all of you.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Happy New Year Everyone. Here it is 2010 already. I am looking forward to this year and all the exciting things we have planned. Most of all, I know that the Auxiliary is looking forward to distributing poppies at Miller Park with the Legion and SAL. What a wonderful family project, to raise funds, to benefit so many veterans.

On March 29th, the Auxiliary is going to have

a luncheon for some of the Veterans from the Zablocki Medical Center. Mark this date on your calendar and come and greet the veterans attending the luncheon. I know how much these men and women appreciate everything that we do for them.

This is going to be a busy and exciting year for all of us, especially because Milwaukee is hosting the National Legion Convention. Many of our people are already involved in projects for this event and will be looking for all of our support and help. As always please contact me with any suggestions.

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

-
- February 2
6:30 pm - Blood Pressure Screening - Cramer Hall
6:30 pm - SAL Meeting - Wimmer Room
7:30 pm - Post Membership Meeting
- February 6
7:00 pm Community Outreach Committee Meeting
Cramer Hall
- February 9
6:30 pm - House Committee Meeting
- February 13
8:00 pm S.A.L. Valentine Dance -
Knight Train - Cramer Hall
- February 14
4th District Bowling Tournament
- February 16
7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting
7:00 pm - Executive Bd Meeting
- February 17
7:30 pm - 4th District Meeting - Post 434
9327 S Shepard Ave, Oak Creek
- March 5
Annual Post Smoker / Card Party
- March 13
Noon - Community Outreach Fund Raiser

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POPPY DAYS

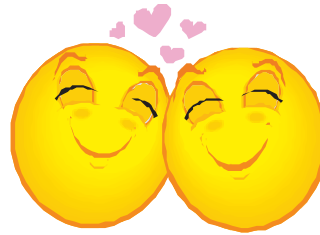
American Legion Poppy Days are May 14 and 15, 2010. We have been given the privilege of distributing Poppies at Miller Park on May 14, 2010 beginning at 5:30 (when the gates open) until 7:10 which is the start of the game. We will need lots of help from the Legion family. Remember that the Legion Family includes the Post, Auxiliary, and the Sons of the Legion. All of us together can help to raise funds for Poppy Days. The more funds we raise, the more funds we have to help Veterans with. Poppy Funds can only be used for Veterans.

Please let Jim Marinkovich know if you can help. We need to be sure we have enough volunteers to cover all the entrance doors to the Stadium.

This could become a fun evening for those who would like to also attend the game. If interested please advise Jim at the membership meeting as well, so that we can block off a group of tickets. We need to know who would like to attend the game, no later than the April Membership meeting. If we have a large group, our name will be displayed on the Miller Park Board. This is also a "roll-back" night, with the Brewers in uniforms from - way back when - and bobble heads being given out. Join the fun, and if it cold, they will close the roof.

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ ANSWERS

- a. Teddy Roosevelt - Note, his wife Alice died during childbirth, and his mother died from typhoid.
- b. South Carolina
- a. Jesse Jackson - in 1984 and 1988
- c. 5 - note - the stars are made of silver and fastened together in a circle.
- b. St Paul, MN



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The February membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm on February 2, 2009.

The Son's are holding a Valentine's Dance on February 13, 2010 in Cramer Hall from 7:00 pm to midnight. Come out with your sweetheart, shuffle your feet around the dance floor, or listen to the music from Knight Train, and have some fun. Admission is \$8.00 per person. We will have raffles, shooters, snacks and beverages. You cannot enjoy all of this from the comfort of your living room. You have to find it at the Post, and the new chairs are soft and comfortable.

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

AMERICAN LEGION GOLF LEAGUE

Any member who would like to participate in a Golf League, please contact Wayne Goldbach at 414-546-6488 as soon as possible. Golf will start at 7:00 am on May 4, 2010.

TAPS



We Salute all those who have died.

We honor their memories.

We pray for their souls.

May all the departed rest peacefully in the Arms of the Great Commander of us All.

