



The Todd Tattler

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

February 2012
Volume 4, Issue 7

Member of WALPA & NALPA

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
6:30 pm
S.A.L. Membership Mtg
...

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
7:30 pm
Membership Meeting
...

Tuesday, February 14, 2012
5:00 pm
House Committee Mtg
...

Wednesday, February 15, 2012
7:30 pm
4th District Meeting
Greendale Post 416
...

Monday, February 20, 2012
6:00 pm
Smoker Committee Mtg
...

Monday, February 20, 2012
7:00 pm
Executive Board Meeting
...

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
7:00 pm
Unit 537 Auxiliary Mtg
...

Wednesday, February 29, 2012
7:30 pm
Milw Cty Council Mtg
Zablocki Matousek
Auditorium
...

Friday March 2, 2012
Annual Post Smoker
"Card Party"
6:30 pm - 12:30 am



COMMANDERS CORNER

Walter Pfeiffer

Several of our Post Members attended the mid-winter conference the weekend of January 20 - 22nd. There is a lot to share with the membership, so please attend the February membership meeting for reports from the delegates and other members who attended meetings.

Linda and I attended the membership committee meeting, of which Dave Wischer is a committee member. They had a lot to share, but most important on their agenda was the decline in membership in the Legion, and ideas on how we can turn that decline around. What can we do? Ask an eligible Veteran to join the American Legion. We have an aging membership, so we need to find ways to bring the younger "Gulf War Era" veterans into the membership. So, if you have a son, daughter, other relative, friend, neighbor or co-worker, who is eligible to belong, ask them to join. We have lots of information to give them to read over. Sometimes we need to ask several times, as they may not be ready to join when first invited. Dates of eligibility are on the back of your membership card.

In the last several years the Todd Post has lost over 30 members to the "Great Commander". They cannot be replaced, but we have had to work hard to invite new people to take us forward. So again, I ask you to invite Veterans to join our ranks. Remember that collectively our voice is important in Washington, to maintain Veterans benefits.

The other point with membership is "what can we do" as members on a social level? Dances have stopped because members do not come to them. What would you like to see us do? Do you want a card party on a Sunday afternoon every other month? Do you want a lunch at a nominal price, so you can come and visit with other members (and bring your spouse or friend with you)? Do you want a Sunday afternoon dance? We need ideas from the membership. Please come to a meeting and let us know what your ideas are. We are active in helping Veterans, serving Children and Youth, and helping in the community. How can we serve each other?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1st Vice Linda Pfeiffer

We currently have 284 paid members for 2012. We need to reach 293 for 100%. We did not meet 100% by the end of the year, so we did not get \$100 from District. Again, I ask that if you have not renewed to please send in your dues as soon as possible. If there is an issue that prevents you from paying dues, please call and talk to me. We can make arrangements to help you.

Dues are \$35.00 for 2012, and \$28.00 if you are retired and have been a member of Post 537 for 10 or more years. Dues for the Auxiliary are \$18.00, and the SAL dues are \$10.00.

2ND VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Brian Duerr

Please see the information for our Annual Post Smoker "Card Party" further on in the newsletter. Come and play, or if you can help, please come and help.

GATORADE DRIVE FOR THE TROOPS

Linda Pfeiffer

Again, we want to thank our post members, bar patrons and the public who have continued to send in checks, and bring donations of powdered Gatorade, and other items to the Post for our deployed troops. We hope to continue this project until all our deployed military return home.

FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Wally Pufahl, Doug Kueny, Brian Duerr

Construction on the hall started on time on January 23rd, with demolition of the south, west and north walls, along with the accordion door and the stage. D & G Construction also started framing and roughing the west wall on January 23rd.

On January 24th the roughing was done on all three walls and framing of the new french entry doors to the hall, and table storage room, along with rebuilding of the stage.

New electric lighting and "updated" electrical (to code) has been roughed in.

The outside walls have all been properly insulated with drywall installed on January 26th.

The new ceiling, wainscoting and trim will be finished by February 3rd. We are on schedule with the remodeling, and we are sure that everyone will be pleased. Everything will be up to code and we will be able to enjoy the use of our "new" hall.

Remember that the hall is available for rent for weddings, parties, etc. Please let your friends know that we have reasonable prices and a "nice new" atmosphere for their enjoyment.

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. Take advantage of this opportunity to monitor your health.

ED'S HEAD BANGIN' QUIZ

1. In 1901 Congress set the first speed limit in America. What was the limit?
a. 12 mph b. 15 mph c. 18 mph
2. Which president was on the \$5,000 bill?
a. John Adams b. James Madison
c. Benjamin Harrison
3. Who wrote Henry Ford a letter praising him for the cars performance?
a. John Dillinger b. Clyde Barrow
c. Al Capone
4. In what State was Wal-Mart started?
a. Georgia b. Alabama c. Arkansas
5. Who was the 1st American in space on May 5, 1961?
a. Alan Shepherd b. John Glenn
c. James Lovell

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.

I had a very informative, fun and eventful weekend at mid-winter. It all came about in the last minute, with the realization that I had access to a time share in the Dells (Thanks Joanie!) and a free weekend to get away. So, I decided to take Friday off and go up to the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference. I am so glad that I went to the conference because I learned so much. The only thing that I regret or would possibly like to see changed, is the fact that on Saturday there were too many training sessions that I wanted to go to and could not make it to all of them. I would liked to see some of them held on Friday, somewhere between all of the committee meetings. Special thanks to the local American Legion Post 187 in the Dells. They were open all weekend to anyone that attended the conference. Unfortunately, Post 537 were basically the only legionnaires to support the local Post. Maybe a handful of others throughout the weekend showed up. Eight of us from Post 537 took advantage of their hospitality and a good time was had by all. I have pictures to prove it, unless bribes become involved. There are a couple of bullet points I want to pass along from the conference that are listed below. If you have any questions please let me know.

Please contact me if you want to join our "Stop Smoking" group. It will begin sometime at the end of February or beginning of March. I will post signs in the Bar and let you know more when all the plans are set. But again, please let me know if you want to join us.

DID YOU KNOW:

**You might qualify for hospital benefits if you have no service related disabilities and make under a certain yearly dollar amount, dependent on children.

**You might qualify for benefits from PTSD based just

on having a combat badge or being deployed during wartime with no other proof.

**There are automobile and housing grants for persons with service related disabilities for making adaptations for their disabilities.

**There are many benefits for family of deceased veterans whether or not they were lost in the line of duty or otherwise.

**It is very important to contact the county service office as soon as a family can handle such a meeting, after the Veterans death.

The county Veteran's service office has moved to 6419 W Greenfield Av., West Allis, WI. Their new phone number is 414-266-1234. It is across the street from Crawdaddy's restaurant. Parking is available on street, off street and a parking lot across the street. It is on the Route 18 bus line and is wheelchair accessible.

COLOR GUARD

Nick Berg

I have been asked again this year to see if we can provide a color guard for the beginning of a local semi-pro football game, for when they play the National Anthem. The team's name is The Milwaukee Venom. This will be for their home games only, which there are normally five. I will have their schedule sometime in January and will let you know the dates. Their season starts in May. Please let me know if you can participate. I need three members other than myself. We provided the color guard two years ago, but could not last year. Thank You.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander Bob Sirovina Jr.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 6:30 pm at the Post. We are looking for ideas for our future events and activities, so please mark the day on your calendar and attend the meeting.

As of the January 16th Membership Report from Detachment Headquarters our Squadron now has 59 paid members for 2012, making us 102% in membership. Thanks to all our members for helping us to reach our 100% goal again this year.

At our last meeting we decided to consider

hosting another Valentine's Dance, but for a number of reasons we will be unable to have one this year.

Another item that was discussed is our membership dues. After careful consideration, the members present at the January meeting voted to reevaluate our present dues structure. Please be advised that there will be a membership vote at the February membership meeting. **"Upon the recommendation of the SAL executive board and members present at the January Meeting, dues for the 2013 membership year will be increased from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per member"**. If you have questions, this is the time to come and ask those questions.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns or ideas, please feel free to contact me at 414-321-1479 or email durango1@wi.rr.com.

CHAPLAINS NOTES

Gretchen Davies

The Pledge of Allegiance is said at every Official meeting of the American Legion. So often we hear a pause in "one Nation under God". Please note that there is not a comma between Nation and under. It is one continuous statement. It does not matter what your religious denomination is, or what you call the "Commander of us All", we are "one Nation under God". Please try to remember this when you recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

FUND RAISING REPORT

Chairperson Gretchen Davies

Please remember the upcoming annual Smoker on March 2, 2012. The Smoker proceeds are the only monies Post 537 has to support operating expenses and programs like Badger Boys and CYF.

We are soliciting raffle and fish bowl items. If you would like one (or more) of the "Official" letters to solicit donations from your favorite restaurants, oil change provider, boutique, barber or salon please contact Linda Pfeiffer at 262-784-2807. Letters will be available at the February Membership meeting. Use your imagination, if it is some place you frequent then

probably your peers would like to win a certificate to the same place! Please advise if you know of someone who has a "large ticket" item to raffle.

In addition to raffle we have several menu items that can be donated, to help defray the cost of food. Please contact me at 414-731-8240 if you are able to donate items such as olives, cheeses, sausage, crackers, rolls & bread, gallon cans of baked beans or kraut, coffee & condiments, or bakery items for the dessert table (finger foods only) as we are trying to reduce the need for dessert plates and forks. Every little bit helps.

Lastly let me remind you about the Smoker raffle tickets. Raffle tickets are available at the Post Bar and will be available at the February membership meeting. If you are able to sell tickets where you work or play, we will have them available for you take along with you. If you take "packets" of tickets from the bar, please leave your name and phone number on a slip at the bar, so that we can keep track of who has tickets out for sale.

Tickets will remain \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Please note that U.S. Post Office regulations only allow mailing of raffle tickets that specifically state: "no purchase necessary". I know many of you would probably return the tickets with a "donation", but with the cost of envelopes and postage, and the gamble that tickets might be returned without a donation the fund raising committee has opted to not mail a packet to each member. Please, contact a Post officer if you are able to buy even one ticket. Tickets can be delivered to you at your residence. If you send in a check for a ticket or packet of tickets, the ticket stub will be mailed to you. Prizes are: 1st - \$500.00; 2nd - \$250.00; 3rd - \$125.00. There are also other prizes to be won, such as, bottles of spirits, sausage, an afghan, and many other items.

We of course are in need of help at the Smoker event. If you can help for an hour or two, to help set up, take down, work the floor raffles, help in the kitchen, help at the bar, or anything else we need help with, I will have a sign up sheet at the February membership meeting. Thank you again for all you do for the Post and Legion Family.

4TH DISTRICT REPORT

Mark Sandow - District 2nd Vice Commander

The 4th District held its Oratorical Contest on Sunday, January 15, at Post 180. We had two (2) contestants: Nicole Mallum from Oak Creek High school, sponsored by Tanner Post 120, and Joseph Kotvis from Audubon High school, sponsored by Post 18. Joseph won 1st place and will go to Ripon on February 25th. Congratulations to both contestants for a job well done!

The Matousek Auditorium at the VA Center will be the site of the annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service on February 5, 2012, at 2:00 pm, sponsored by the 5th District. If you have never attended this event, please consider doing so. It remembers the sacrifices made by 4 Chaplains aboard the U.S.S. Dorchester so that others might live.

Police Post 415 and Greendale Post 416 have reached their membership goal of 100%. Linda and her membership committee are very close to reaching 100%. We need only a few more to reach our goal. Let's help her GIT'R DONE!

If any WWII or Korean veteran is interested in riding in a bus for the West Allis Memorial Day Parade, let me know. I will pass this information on to the right people. It takes time to make arrangements, so please contact me as soon as possible.

The next meeting of the Mighty 4th District will be held at Greendale Post 416 sponsored by Post 18 on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:30 pm, at 6351 W. Grange Ave. Remember that everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

ADJUTANTS NOTES

Mark Sandow

Enclosed with this mail are two (2) forms.

Sunday March 4, 2012 at 1:30 pm, the Post will hold it's annual Initiation of Members. If you have never been initiated into the American Legion, this is your opportunity to be initiated. You come to the front of the hall as a group, and receive from Past Commanders information on what the American

Legion Stands for, a certificate, a flag, a book on the flag, a pin, and explanation on what the Legion Flag emblems and symbols stand for. Even if you have been in the Legion for a number of years, but were not initiated when you joined, you may take advantage of this ceremony now. For members who transferred in from the State Holding Post 2930, this is an ideal time for you to be initiated, and to meet your fellow Legion members. Please return the form no later than February 24th, so that we can have your certificate and all other materials ready. If you forget to sign up, and show up that day, we will still be able to initiate you, but will have to give you your certificate at a later date.

The second form is for any member wanting to receive your star for being a member of the Legion for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, OR 40 years, you are entitled to receive a star and a certificate. Again, we need time to prepare for this presentation, so notice is required. If you show up without sending in your form, you will receive your star but not your certificate (Certificates are for members 15 years and over). How do you know how long you have been in? Check your membership card. Your years of membership are noted in the starred area of your card.

Remember that there is not a meeting on the 1st Tuesday of March, as we have our regular meeting on Sunday March 4th.

MID-WINTER REPORT

My wife Sue and I attended the American Legion Mid-Winter Convention at Ho-Chunk Casino / Hotel January 20 - 22, 2012. I attended a meeting of the National and Homeland Security Committee as a member since the position of Department Blood Donor Program Chairman falls under the auspices of this committee.

Later in the afternoon, I attended the Past Commanders' Club meeting as a newly elected assistant Finance Officer.

On Saturday, I worked the Blood Drive from 10 am - 3:30 pm. We collected 43 units of blood and / or blood products. Thank you to all who gave blood and all worked the drive.

MILWAUKEE VA MEDICAL CENTER

Lend a Helping Hand to our Veterans
Be a Volunteer!

The Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center has 890 volunteers who donate more than 139,000 hours of their time per year. Our volunteers are integral to our success. They provide a wide range of supplemental support and financial assistance to programs for our veteran patients throughout the year. Volunteers can perform a number of services, and a volunteer's talents/skills are closely matched with assignments that are available.

To volunteer at the medical center you must be 14 years old or older. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Denise Jashinsky, Program Manager Voluntary Service or Mary Jo Jankovich, Volunteer Specialist, at 414-384-2000, ext. 41803.

Volunteering

Volunteers provide many important functions throughout the Medical Center and help make our patients' stay more enjoyable. Volunteers can perform a number of services, and a volunteer's talents are closely matched with one of our many assignments.

To volunteer, call or visit the VAMC Milwaukee Voluntary Service Office. We will be happy to receive your application or discuss how you can help us in our mission to provide comfort and care to America's veterans.

The Many Ways to Give

Donation of Time:

One of the most precious and generous gifts is your time. There are many assignments in the medical center waiting to be filled. Assignments

Monetary and Non Monetary Donations:

The Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center could not provide many of the services for our veterans if it were not for the generosity of people in the community, veteran organizations, fraternal organizations and businesses.

Monetary Donations - Cash donations are used for the comfort and welfare of our veteran patients.

Non-Monetary Donations - Non-cash donations are used to make the patients' stay more enjoyable. Examples of non cash donations:

* * Magazines - Age, 3 months or less - Older magazines will not be accepted.

** New or (clean) gently used men's & women's clothing - Clothes that are out of date or are not clean will not be accepted.

**Telephone Cards

**Personal Care Items - Mouthwash will not be accepted.

**DVD's - examples: comedy, westerns, television shows, etc. - please be sure they are appropriate.

**Women's personal items.

**To make a cash or non-cash contribution, please contact the VAMC Milwaukee Voluntary Service office, (414) 384-2000 x 41803.

Also appreciated are twin size bed blankets for men/women in the domiciliary. Crocheted or knitted hats, scarves and gloves / mittens. Pens and paper. crossword puzzle books.

The Disabled American Veterans, located at Zablocki, are looking for drivers for Veterans who need transportation to doctor appointments. If you are able to help with transportation, this is another way to volunteer. Contact: Disabled American Veterans, VA Regional Office, Rm 162. 5400 W National Av, Milwaukee, WI., 414-902-5736

NOTES from Gretchen.

We are all thrilled that so many troops have rotated home, but we must remember the culture shock they and their families will endure.

Please keep them in your prayers and, if possible, give hands on help with finding work, home repairs, even babysit so the soldier can reacquaint with the spouse. Now is the perfect opportunity to show our gratitude for the time they spent away.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Commander Walter Pfeiffer
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2nd Vice Brian Duerr
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3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich
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Chaplain Gretchen Davies
414-731-8240 - cell
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Service Officer Nick Berg
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nberg99@yahoo.com

Adjutant Mark Sandow
4th District, 2nd Chair
414-418-0993 - Cell
414-545-0409 - Home
MarkSandow@wi.rr.com

Parliamentarian Chuck Cooney
414-856-0804
ccooney2@wi.rr.com

House Committee:
Wally Pufahl - 414-541-0497
Doug Kueny - 414-425-0059
Brian Duerr - 414-541-7703

Unit President Sue Middlestead
414-545-2727
jmiddlestead@wi.rr.com

S.A.L. Squadron Commander
Robert Sirovia Jr.
414-321-1479
durango1@wi.rr.com

ED'S HEAD BANGIN QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A. 12 mph
2. b. James Madison
3. b. Clyde Barrow
4. c. Arkansaw
5. a. Alan Shepherd

Note: Ed Laurich is Harv's son, and has taken over the quiz. Ed is also a SAL member.

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION

for Children and Youth Programs
Walter Pfeiffer

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.

I want to thank Post members Frank and Dorothy Orlando for again collecting cans from their senior apartment complex for our Drive. They also took off the pull tabs from the cans that were given to our Post Auxiliary for the Ronald McDonald House fund. Earlier this fall, another member called us to pick up cans at his apartment unit. All the proceeds are used to fund our C&Y projects.

Because of this project we have been able to help a new Cub Scout Troop get on their feet. This is neat. And all it takes is saving aluminum. A penny goes a long way members. Thank you.



Please note that on the last page of the Tattler is the address for the Post 537 Website.

On the website is a lot of good information. There is a calendar of events, so you can see from month to month when meetings take place.

Newest addition:
Volunteer Hours form.
This is located under Forms and Newsletters.

You can fill in all your volunteer Information, and then print it and bring it to a post meeting. OR, you can save to your computer in PDF form and email it to Linda Pfeiffer, and she will print it off and give it to the adjutant for including in the year end reports (due in May) to Department Headquarters.

Volunteer hours, include, help you give to neighbors, hours you help at your local church, teaching Religious education at your church, shopping for elderly friends, transportation you provide for others for Doctors appointments; hours you volunteer to Legion functions. Anything, where you give of your time and talent should be on this form.

Have you crocheted items for childrens hospital? Volunteers at a scout meeting, or reading at school. This includes monies that you have spent on volunteering. Did you walk a neighbors dog? Did you take time to talk to a friend who needed cheering up? This list could go on for the next 8 pages, but I am running out of room. If you do not have internet access, we have printed volunteer hours forms available at the Post Meetings.

AUXILIARY CASINO BUS TRIP

Our next bus trip will be April 24, 2012 to Oneida. We leave at 7:00 am and return at 6:00 pm. Price is \$30.00 per person. Anyone interested should contact Vi Kaun at 414-525-1025 or email rkaun@wi.rr.com. Deadline for reservations is 4/3/12. This is open to all Legion Family and Friends.



**H. A. TODD JR. POST 537
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**
9159 W. BELOIT RD
MILWAUKEE, WI 53227
414-543-2030

ANNUAL POST SMOKER

Card party
FRIDAY MARCH 2, 2012
6:30 pm to 12:30 am

RAFFLES
FOOD, FUN, CARDS – REFRESHMENTS

ADMISSION \$10.00
Doors open at 6:00 pm



Public Welcome

Raffle Tickets available at Post Bar and from Post Members

1st prize \$500.00
2nd prize \$250.00
3rd prize \$125.00

plus other prizes

\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

(winners do not need to be present to win)

Bring your friends and come join us for a night of fun.



Commander Pfeiffer and Chaplain Davies make a delivery of donated books and clothes to Kenosha Outreach for Veterans in need.

TODD POST BRAG PAGE



3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich, Doug Kueny and Commander Pfeiffer, took time to teach the Cub Scouts how to properly carry the Flag, Display the Flag and Fold the Flag 1/24/12



New Post Member William Moran (left) and a recently returned Active Duty Member from the 128th refueling Wing, fill up their truck, with Gatorade and other gifts for the deployed troops. Included in this delivery were letters from Students at St Matthias School, and Wis Lutheran College.





TAPS

Jerome Wirth
January 3, 2012
Korea Army



Joseph M Kwaterski
January 24, 2012
WWII Navy

Our Sympathy is extended to their families.