



# The Todd Tattler



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Monthly Publication

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Todd Post Website: [www.toddpost537.org](http://www.toddpost537.org)



## COMMANDERS CORNER

Lets hope this next year is brighter than this past year. Again, Merry Christmas and have a safe and Happy New Year.

Commander Brian Duerr  
414-541-7703  
[brianduerr@hotmail.com](mailto:brianduerr@hotmail.com)

Greetings. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Children's Christmas Party. I was unable to be there because of my work schedule. I heard that it was a great success. It has been many years since we had a Children's Christmas Party. I hope we can continue this in the future.

I attended the Christmas Party for the Legion, Ladies Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. I thought we had a good turn out. Thank you to all the members that helped with the party. Thank you to the House Committee for supplying two cocktails for each person in attendance, and the bar for the door prizes. North Country Band entertained us with music, and there were plenty of people on the dance floor.

If you have not sent in your membership dues, please do so as soon as you can. Without your dues and your support, we will be unable to accomplish our mission. I also hope you will make an effort to attend our next membership meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 7:30 pm.



Post Member Ray Simons returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan recently. He presented to Commander Brian Duerr, a Flag of the United States of America, which was flown in the face of the enemy over Camp Blackhorse in Kabul, Afghanistan during Operation "Enduring Freedom" on April 11, 2009, and dedicated to the H. A. Todd Jr. Post 537 family. The flag and certification will be displayed in a prominent place of honor in Cramer Hall.

Thank you Ray for your service to our Nation.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As I write this article, I want to thank the 268 members who have paid their dues for 2010. This brings us to 83.4 % of our membership paid. Our goal is 321 (based on our ending membership numbers on June 30, 2009) We need 53 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.

**ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS:** Letters were mailed to Active Duty Members whose dues have not been paid in early November. To each of you, please contact me via phone, e-mail or letter to verify that you are still on Active Duty and where you are stationed. We value you as members. If you are in a combat area, we are more than happy to send you a care package, but we need to know where you are in order to do so. We have lots of goodies to send to you. I hope to hear from you soon.

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

## LAST MAN'S CLUB

There will be a short meeting of all the members of the Last Man's Club on January 5, 2009, at 7:00 pm (prior to the Post Membership Meeting) in Cramer Hall. If you cannot make the meeting please contact Secretary Pfeiffer at 262-784-2807.

## SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Hello and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. I found out that there are going to be increases in VA awards to certain Vietnam Veterans that were exposed to Agent Orange. Please see the article below for additional information.

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!

VA Set to Approve New Agent Orange Benefits. 12/18/09 - NAUS has learned that a new ruling as a result of a San Francisco court decision related to the Nehmer court case decision will lead to a 20% increase in VA awards for those who served in Vietnam and were exposed to Agent Orange with presumed service connected disabilities.

NAUS, whose President, Bill Matz, MG, USA (Ret), is a decorated (DSC and Purple Heart) Vietnam veteran, applauds VA Secretary Eric Shinseki's decision to expand Agent Orange benefits to an estimated additional 185,000 Vietnam Veterans and their widows.

The VA is expected to officially announce the new regulations by early 2010. In order to assist with claims backlog and new exams, the VA will accept letters from family physicians supporting claims for Agent Orange related conditions. Thousands of widows whose husbands died of Agent Orange disabilities will benefit from retroactive benefits and back pay, as well as DIC payments. About 86,000 claims previously denied by the VA before 1985 will be revisited. 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.

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.

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

## **PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

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

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Well the holiday season is over. The House Committee hopes that everyone enjoyed themselves during the Christmas Season.

It is not always fun on this Committee as we never know what will happen next. For those members that did not know, our building manager Bill Martin has been hospitalized since Thanksgiving. His health is improving daily. In his absence we have appointed his daughter Julie, assistant manager. Please give her all the help that she needs, but please do not interfere with her duties. The Committee has confidence that Julie can do a good job.

At the present time we are putting on hold all re-modeling projects. If you have questions as to why this is being done, please attend a membership meeting and ask questions.

We are in the planning stages for the 150th anniversary celebration to be held in August. We are proud to be hosting a few parties at the Post during National convention. Folks this is our time to shine. We will be needing volunteers to welcome our guests during that time.

Well there's not much more to say so for now don't forget to come out and support the business it is in the best interest of the Post to do so, after all, this is "OUR" Post Clubhouse.

Dave Wischer, Committee Chairperson

## **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

The January membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm on January 5, 2009.

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

## HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. Which State borders the largest Ocean on earth?  
a. Florida                      b. New Jersey  
c. Oregon
2. The American Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865. Was it fought mainly in the?  
a. North                      b. South                      c. East
3. Edgar Allen Poe wrote a long poem about a bird called a raven. Does the raven?  
a. talk                      b. sing                      c. whistle
4. When were African-American men given the right to vote?  
a. 1865                      b. 1870                      c. 1875
5. What was American's first big roller coaster called?  
a. Cyclone  
b. Hurricane                      c. Tornado

## CHILDREN - YOUTH - VETERANS FUND RAISERS

Here we go again. I'm looking for members to help with the fund raising in the Post. It would be nice or should I say less stressful if the Committee had a few more people selling tickets, picking up door prizes and just general help. Next on our plate is the ANNUAL TODD POST SMOKER. Don't avoid this fund raiser just because of the word smoke as we have one of the best air filtration systems around. Plus not too many people in attendance smoke anyway.

The Smoker will be held on Friday, March 5, 2010. Tickets will be mailed out shortly as we have worded the ticket differently so that we are now complying will federal law. We are in

need of door prizes or any big ticket item to be raffled that evening. We also need people to work the floor in many different ways. So come to the next membership meeting and pick-up extra donation letters and tickets. I want to thank everyone in advance because I know I can count on the Todd Post Membership to make this the best Smoker ever.

## 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.

## POST BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

### Power Program

We do not have a presentation for the January Meeting, however we will be at the Post to take Blood Pressure Readings. And yes, that nasty scale will be there, just to see how you behaved over the Christmas Holidays. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

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

## CHAPLAIN'S NOTE

Christmas Greetings to all of you. May you have a Blessed Holiday and a Happy & healthy New Year. I hope to see many of you at upcoming meetings & events (The Annual Smoker is right around the corner; it would be wonderful to see some of you out & about that night, either as volunteers or card players!)

Once again a handful of care packages were sent. Please let us know about any deployed military members who you know. Legion membership or affiliation is not a requirement. Part of the Legion mission is to support the active duty personnel and their families. Please pick up the phone and let the 1st Vice, Service Officer or me know about anyone you know from these families who are in need.

We also need to make a special effort to remember our fellow Veterans that have not been blessed with good health. Consider donating a little time to visit a homebound or hospitalized Veteran. Perhaps this could be a New Year's resolution?!?!?! But if you cannot commit to the long term, weigh the options of some visits just over the next couple weeks. It will probably bring you some joy when you remind those who are unable to be out and about that they are remembered.

Again, happy wishes for a peaceful New Year to each of you.

Chaplain Gretchen Davies  
414-227-4301

## 4TH DISTRICT NEWS

Greetings and a Happy and Prosperous New Year from all of us at 4th District ! I hope Santa brought you everything you wanted except the bills. This is the start of a new year. Let's

make a resolution to adopt a positive CAN DO attitude and use it to attain positive CAN DO results. I have a feeling the economy will begin to improve this year. I hope so. Santa left me with the bills. HO! HO! HO!

My wife Sue and I attended the 4th District December meeting/Christmas Party at Post 416. The food was great (I especially liked the corn casserole) and the fellowship couldn't be beat. Thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work.

The 4th District bowling tournament will be held on Sunday, February 14, 2010, at AMF, 75th and Oklahoma. Cost for a team of 5 bowlers will be \$55. Contact Leo Taylor for more info. As of this writing, Firefighters' Post 426 needs only 1 member to reach 100% membership. Posts 18, 16-Cudahy and 228 are very close to achieving 100%. C"MON TODD POST !!! We CAN DO IT!!! Get our positive CAN DO attitude going to achieve positive CAN DO Results!!! Our next 4th District meeting will be sponsored by Hales Corners Post 299 at Clifford's Supper Club, 10481 W. Forest Home Ave. on Wednesday, January 29, at 730 pm.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

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

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Happy New Year to All

I hope this Holiday Season has been a good one for everyone. I have the honor of being able to help out vets at the Dayton House in Kenosha. I do bingo for them once a month. December was their Christmas Party and I was able to present them each with a wallet and a

small monetary gift. They are so appreciative of everything that is done for them and it makes my job very enjoyable. I am so thankful that I live in this country and that so many defend our way of life. Thank you to all the veterans and their families too for their sacrifice.

The Children's and adult Christmas Party were both huge successes, thank you to all that participated in any way. We, the auxiliary are anxious to work together with the Legion and S.A.L. on many more joint projects this coming year. I truly believe it takes all of us to make a difference. Our Post 537 is truly being united as a true family. As always feel free to contact me with any suggestions.

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

## **UNDERWEAR FOR VETERANS**

The S.A.L. thanks everyone who contributed to the personal clothing drive for the Veterans at the V.A. Medical Center. Donations were matched by Jockey in the amount of \$3309.75, plus 36 charity boxes in the amount of \$8750.00. Several veterans in need were in the vestibule at the Hospital at the time of delivery, and were very grateful to receive these gifts. Volunteers were scheduled to deliver the gifts on December 22nd, to the Hospitalized Veterans in need. The Hospital was very grateful to receive so much to help so many need Veterans. ALL the personal clothing to the Veterans. Nothing is sold. A pure and simple gift to make someone's life easier.

## **TOYS FOR CHILDREN**

The Post received toy and book donations through the 84th Reserve Unit from Dollar Tree for Christmas. Toys and books were sorted out and given to: Children's Hospital, The Milwaukee Rescue Mission, 6 young children

who were in need of a Merry Christmas, The Croation Church, St Matthias Church, The West Allis Police Department, and our 4th grade adopted class at Manitoba School. Some of the toys and games are being sent to the troops that are deployed overseas.

We still have several small items, stuffed bears, puzzle and games for distribution. Although Christmas will be over by the time you get your Tattler, if you know of an organization or family who is in need of small gifts for children, please attend the January meeting and give us a name, address, and age of child (ren) in need, so that we can donate a gift to them. If you are unable to make the meeting, please call Chaplain Davies or Service Officer Berg with the information on the child in need.

## **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.

## January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy New Year	2
3	4	5 Sal Meeting Blood Pressure Screening Last Man's Club Meeting Membership Mtg	6 Epiphany	7	8	9
10 VFW Aux Meeting	11 House Committee Meeting	12	13	14	15	16 Persian Gulf War Began
17 Martin Luther King Day	18 Auxiliary Meeting Ex Bd Meeting	19 4th District Meeting	20	21	22	23
24	25 VFW Meeting	26 Milw City Council Meeting Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord	27 Vietnam Cease Fire	28	29 Mid Winter Conf	30 Mid Winter Conf
31 Mid-Winter Conf						

March 13  
8:00 pm - Last Man's Club Dance  
Cramer Hall

May 14 - 15  
Annual Poppy Days

### HARV'S QUIK QUIZ ANSWERS

1. c. Oregon - which borders the Pacific Ocean
2. b. South - (northern cities suffered far less damage from the war.
3. a. Talk - the mysterious raven repeats the word "nevermore" throughout the poem.
4. b. 1870 - according to the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution
5. a. cyclone - it was built in 1926 at Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York.

### 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.

### 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. 3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich needs a committee from the Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L. to plan for this evening. Please see Jim at the January membership.

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.

December 31 - NEW YEARS EVE

THE BAR WILL CLOSE at 6:00 PM

January 1, 2010 - HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 5, 2010

6:30 - S.A.L. Meeting - Wimmer Room

6:30 pm - Post / VA Blood Pressure  
Screening - Cramer Hall

7:00 pm - Last Man's Club Meeting  
Cramer Hall

7:30 pm - Membership Meeting  
Cramer Hall

January 12,

6:30 pm - House Committee Meeting

January 19

7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting - Cramer Hall

7:00 pm - Executive Bd Mtg - Wimmer Room

January 20

7:30 pm - 4th District Meeting  
Post 299 - Cliffords Supper Club  
Hales Corners

January 27

7:30 pm - Milwaukee County Council Mtg  
Post 448 - Milw War Memorial

January 29, 30, 31

Mid Winter Conferences  
Wilderness Resort - Wis Dells

February 13

8:00 pm S.A.L. Valentine Dance -  
Nite Train - Cramer Hall

February 14

4th District Bowling Tournament

March 5

Annual Post Smoker / Card Party

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



H. A. Todd Jr Post 537  
Family Members,  
Post employee,  
and Post Friends who  
delivered personal  
clothing items to the  
Zablocki Medical  
V.A. Center  
December 21, 2009.

Seated are four of the  
Veterans who received  
needed items of  
clothing.

All items are gifted to  
Veterans in need.



Firefighters from Milwaukee Engine 12, who helped to un-  
load the boxes of personal items at the V.A.



Members of the S.A.L who delivered \$16,085.98 in  
personal clothing for the Veterans at the V.A. Center

## TAPS

Melvin A Bajanen  
December 4, 2009  
Army Air Corps/  
Air Force  
WWII and Korea



Francis G Rebholz  
September 22, 2009  
Army - WWII

Joseph Rapant  
December 18, 2009  
Infantry - WWII

We extend our sympathy to their families.  
May they rest in Peace in the  
Arms of the Great Commander of us all..