

January 2011
Volume 3, Issue 6

Member of WALPA & NALPA

9159 W. Beloit Rd., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53227

414-543-2030

**DATES
TO REMEMBER**

- January 4, 2011
7:30 pm
Membership Meeting
Cramer Hall
- ...
- January 11, 2011
6:30 pm
House Committee Mtg
- ...
- January 17, 2011
6:00 pm
Smoker Planning Mtg
7:00 pm
Executive Bd Mtg
- ...
- January 18, 2011
7:00 pm
Auxiliary Meeting
- ...
- January 19, 2011
7:30 pm
4th District Meeting
Clifford's Supper Club
- ...
- January 26, 2011
7:30 pm
Milw Cty Council Mtg
- ...
- March 4, 2011
6:30 pm - 12:30 am
Annual Post Smoker
Card Party
- ...
- March 12, 2011
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Last Man's Club
Annual Dance



COMMANDERS CORNER

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope the coming year is brighter than the past year. I would like to thank those who helped with the Children's Christmas party. Special thanks to Santa for making an appearance. Plans will soon be in the works for next years Christmas party. We are hoping to have the party back on Saturday, with the children's party and then ours. We are planning on having a delicious meal and a band after the meal.

Our next membership meeting is on January 4, 2011 at 7:30 pm. Please try and attend. I would like to remind you if you have not gotten in your membership dues, please try and get it in as soon as possible so Linda can mail out your membership card.

I am sure you will read more about it latter in the Tattler, but since my column comes first, I would like to remind everyone to mark their calendar for our annual Post Smoker, being held this year on Friday, March 4, 2011. If you are interested in helping please contact Gretchen Davies or Linda Pfeiffer, their contact information is found at the end of the Smoker Article information. We know some persons are unable to help all night, but if you can help for an hour or two it would be very much appreciated. Gretchen will have a sign up sheet for "things to do" and time frames at the January meeting. If you are unable to help, please don't let this discourage you from attending.

Hope to see you at the membership meeting or around the Post.

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are currently at 263 paid members for 2011. To reach 100% we need 321 paid members. Please contact me if you have questions. For those of you who have not paid your dues, National considers you delinquent. Your \$1000 accidental death policy expired on December 31st. You will have to resubmit a form to reinstate the policy. Also, after the end of January, your name will be removed from the mailing list for the National Legion Magazine. Please pay your dues quickly to avoid loss of the publication.

Dues for 2011 are \$35.00. If you are retired and have been a member of Post 537 for 10 or more years, your dues are \$28.00.

While National is able to send out letters to Veterans and ask them to join the American Legion, the best publicity for our organization is a Legion Member. While we don't wish to "arm twist" someone into joining the Post, sometimes all it takes is an invitation. Ask eligible Veterans to attend a meeting and see what we are all about. Give me a name and address and I will mail them a copy of our latest Tattler. Loan them a copy of the Legion Magazine. If you want information on what we do, call and I will send you brochures that you can give to a possible member, or you can get a brochure from the rack at the Legion Post. Wally and I joined the Legion because someone invited us to join.

Unfortunately, we are losing our WWII members to the Great Commander very rapidly. So, we now need to invite men and women who have served since the inception of the Gulf War Conflicts since August 2, 1990. This may be a neighbor, family member, co-worker, or someone you meet at a social event. What does the legion do???? Many things, but our goal is to protect and preserve the rights and benefits of the Veterans, from medical benefits to educational benefits. We also serve the children of the community, by educating them about the Flag, and our Country. We are here to serve. How can we serve you?

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

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 4, 2011.

Adjutant Jim Thomas
414-640-5132
jthomas26@wi.rr.com

POPPY DISTRIBUTION

The "Legion Post Family" will be distributing Poppies at the Brewers Opening Game on Monday, April 4, 2011. This a day game. The game is at 1:10 pm, so we are planning on caravanning from the Post, to the Stadium at 11:30 am. Please mark your calendars and plan on coming and helping us. This is a great opportunity to raise funds for the Veterans Programs of the American Legion. Sign-up sheets will be available at Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. meetings.

Remember that proceeds from Poppy distributions are used to benefit Veterans. This is not used for children and youth programs, or Legion functions.

Jim Marinkovich
3rd Vice Commander
414-327-3420

FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Please remember to stop in and spend some time at the Post Clubhouse. Remember that this is OUR Legion Post, and a place where each of us can come and meet with various members of the Post, Auxiliary, Son's of the Legion, employees, and our usual patrons. We are a smoke-free facility, and a great place to gather.

Please remember that "Post Business" does not belong in the Bar, but at Post Meetings.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Hello! Greetings to all and I hope you had a good Christmas and have a good New Year. I found this article, below, to be interesting. It explains how long it takes to process VA claims, how many claims are received, and what the VA plans to do correct the backlog of claims that are already submitted and speed up the process.

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 is any other questions please let me know. My contact information is at the end of the article. Thank You!

WASHINGTON -- The Veterans Affairs Department is on its way to eliminating its claims-processing backlog within four years, a senior VA official said Dec. 18.

Under the guidance of VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, VA will deem claims as "backlogged" if they take longer than 125 days to process, John Gingrich, the department's chief of staff, said during a conference call with reporters.

Today, the average claim takes 165 days to process, and department officials plan to drop that average to 80 to 90 days, he said.

The department has about 250,000 claims older than 125 days, Gingrich said. It has reduced the backlogged claims and plans to eliminate the logjam by 2015, he said.

"It's a huge leap, but we're going to get there," he said. "Over the next couple months, [VA officials] will be able tell you how we'll get there."

The reduction has come even as claims are rising, mostly due to policy changes with regard to post-traumatic stress and Vietnam-era Agent Orange chemical exposure, Gingrich said.

More than 100,000 claims are filed with VA every month -- about 14,000 each month for post-traumatic stress -- resulting in 1.2 million new

claims filed this year, Gingrich said. The department received 974,000 claims in 2009, he added. VA has 45 pilot programs in place to help reach its goal of meeting President Barack Obama's directive "to transform the VA into a 21st century, people-oriented department with established metrics and is forward-looking," Gingrich said.

"Our leadership is not looking at how things were, but how things are going to be," he said. "I've watched this entire leadership chain say, 'How do we move forward?'"

Making that transformation requires a culture change in the department and a focus on accountability, smarter technology, re-engineered business processes and closer collaboration with stakeholders, Gingrich said. Increased budgets are helping the department make the necessary changes, he noted.

"Not only are we working on culture, we're putting the resources behind it," he said. "The whole VA is behind it. We've got VA support, congressional support, and presidential support. We're going to make a dramatic change in VA processing in the coming years. With the secretary's help, we've turned a corner."

Nick Berg
Service Officer
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POWER PROGRAM

Even though the VA's POWER program has officially ended, our Legion Post's involvement in the POWER program will continue! 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 and even now that the study is complete, Gretchen and I are required to give a short presentation at every Legion Meeting - each on a variety of topics.

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

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. Which State borders the Atlantic Ocean?
a. No. Dakota b. So. Carolina c. West Virginia
2. What famous frontier's man rode with the Pony Express?
a. Bullalo Bill Cody b. Bat Masterson
c. Wild Bill Hiccock
3. What did Clarence Budseye introduce a new way too?
a. Freeze Food b. Develop film
c. Grow Hair
4. You Can Visit Yellowstone National Park in three (3) different States. Name at least one.
a. Texas b. California c. Wyoming
5. Which legendary baseball player is the hero of "The Pride of the Yankees"?
a. Babe Ruth b. Lou Gehrig
c. Joe DiMagio

DISTRICT NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I hope Christmas was as enjoyable for all of you as it was for us. And I hope Santa brought you what you wanted plus plenty of cash to pay for it all. Amen to that! I have a good feeling about 2011. I think the road to recovery will have a few less bumps in it. No, it won't be paved with gold, but the work crews are using a higher grade of concrete and asphalt for a smoother, more comfortable ride. It'll be a lot better than 2010.

Mid-Winter will be held at the HoChunk Hotel and Conference Center in Baraboo January 21st thru the 23rd. There are lots of good learning opportunities offered this weekend. Your delegates will be in attendance and offer their reports at the February membership meeting.

The 4th District Oratorical Contest will be held at the Todd Post on Sunday, January 30th from 12 noon, until 3:00 pm. It's impressive to hear high schoolers speak on the Constitution. The winner from this competition goes to the State Competition. If you are not busy, come to the Post and listen to them speak. It is not too late to ask a teen to participate in this program. So if you know a high school student who is a good speaker, ask him or her to sign up for this event.

District Bowling will be held on February 13th. More info to follow.

Just a reminder that 4 Chaplain's Sunday will be held at the Zablocki V.A. Center on February 6th at 2 pm. Everyone is invited.

The next meeting of the Mighty 4th District will be held Wednesday, January 19th, at 730 pm. at Hales Corners Post 299, located at Cliffords, 103rd and Forest Home. Come on out and see your District in action.

Thanks for all your continued support.

Mark Sandow
Post Historian and 4th District 4th Chair
Vice-Commander
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414-545-0409--Home
MarkSandow@wi.rr.com

AUXILIARY NEWS

Season's Greetings to All

We hope everyone is enjoying a very happy and enjoyable Holiday Season. Our next meeting will be January 18, 2011, at 7:00 pm in Cramer Hall.. Yes, next year, and hopefully will be revived and ready for a new year. As always we are looking for new ideas for projects, please bring your ideas to the meeting.

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

WE WILL CONTINUE TO COLLECT ALUMINUM CANS FOR THE OUTREACH FUND

Please save your aluminum cans throughout the Holiday season, and winter months. If you have several bags that need to be picked up, call Wally at 262-784-2807, and we will make arrangements to pick them up, or meet you at the Post Clubhouse, if you prefer to drop them off there. Please do not just drop them off without calling, as there is nowhere to store them. We collected a little over \$37 worth of cans on November 14th. All proceeds from the cans go into the Outreach Fund, to help those in need in our local area. While Poppy donations are earmarked by the Legion, Auxiliary and Post for Veterans and their families, this fund can be used to help those in need outside the Veterans "Family". We have so many people in need, and this is just a small way to help with unexpected expenses, or donations to the food pantry. If you take off the Pop-Tops, please put them in a separate container, and those will be given to the Auxiliary for the Ronald McDonald House.

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Legion Orational Contest begins the end of January 2010 at the Todd Post. If you know a high school student that is a good speaker, ask him or her to contact 3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich at 414-327-3420 as soon as possible, so that he or she can participate in the contest. There are scholarship funds available for the students who advance in the contest, and in today's world, the students can use the scholarship funds to defray college expenses.

FUND RAISING REPORT

We are gearing up for the annual Smoker on March 4, 2011 (which is only 9 weeks away!!!) Remember, this is the only fund raiser that supports the administrative expenses of our Post so we need to concentrate on making it a success to keep future dues at a lower rate.

Funds from this event also help to support the Post Picnic, and all other Post Social Events. We also

use this fund for Badger Boys State, and many of our Children & Youth Programs. We need your help in this endeavor, whether it is in gathering door prizes, working the night of the event, or attending the event and having a good time. Invite your friends who play cards to come and join us.

Remember that this is a fun evening and a favorite tradition!! Please help out with all the leg work involved in donations for raffles and the evening's meal. In this newsletter you will find a letter to assist you while soliciting raffle items, feel free to xerox or contact Linda Pfeiffer for additional copies. There will be sign up sheets for both food and time donations at the next several general meetings (and Auxiliary & SAL meetings). Non-perishable items can be dropped off any time over the next 9 weeks, but no later than the evening of March 3rd. Any contribution of relish trays, cheese, sausage, crackers, salads or desserts will be welcomed with open arms.

We are in need of people to help with the preparation of food the day of the Smoker. We also are hoping that someone will step forward to be the Kitchen Chairperson.

In addition is the fun part - Clean up. While we prepare for a party at home and clean our houses to look great for our company, the task of putting things away, taking out trash, sweeping floors, etc, is not our favorite part of the party. But it is necessary. So, we are in need of people to step forward wipe down tables, put tables and chairs away and do the general cleanup that comes with an event of this size.

Contact me or co-chair Linda Pfeiffer. We are here to guide and delegate. Whatever you are good at doing, we are willing to let you do. Contact one of us if you have questions, want to volunteer or donate but cannot make a meeting, or if you need raffle tickets!!!

RAFFLE TICKETS CANNOT BE MAILED. This is per postage regulations. So, if you wish to obtain raffle tickets or help to sell the tickets to your friends, family, or co-workers, please let us know. You can get them after the January Executive Board meeting, at the Post Bar, the February Membership

Meeting, or we will arrange to drop them off at your home. Should you wish to participate in the raffle, you may mail a check or money order to the Post for the tickets, and we will mail back your ticket stubs as receipts for your tickets. Tickets are 6 for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each. 1st Prize is \$500.00, second prize is \$250.00, 3rd prize is \$125.00, and there are many other prizes as well..

We also need people to sit on the planning committee and let us know your ideas and contribute your expert advise on running a successful Smoker. The next meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Monday January 17,, 2011 in Cramer Hall.

Our wishes for a wonderful and healthy New Year and thank you in advance for all your help.

Gretchen Davies
414-731-8240
Linda Pfeiffer
262-784-2807

WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION SUBJECT OF TELEVISION SHOW (if you missed it in the past)

The Wisconsin American Legion will be taking center stage in a special episode of Discover Wisconsin Television. The program, titled "The Wisconsin American Legion – For God and Country," is scheduled for broadcast throughout eight Midwest states January 1 and 2., 2010. The video takes a look at the Legion's foundational four pillars: Veterans, Americanism, Youth, and Defense.

The American Legion Department of Wisconsin was chartered in 1920. There are currently over 500 American Legion Posts located throughout the state, comprised of over 73,000 members. Highlights of the video include Camp American Legion in Lake Tomahawk, Badger Boys State and Badger Girls State, American Legion's oratorical contest, Boy Scout troop sponsorship, flag disposal ceremonies, American Legion baseball, shooting sports clubs sponsorships, college scholarships, the

Wisconsin American Legion Riders, the American Legion Children's Legacy Scholarship Fund, Veteran's benefits and advocacy, lobbying the legislature on veterans issues, Troop homecomings and send-offs, and soldier family support.

"The Wisconsin American Legion – For God and Country" show was written and produced by Jim Dick of Madison. Before moving to Wisconsin, Dick was a producer for The Today Show in New York City. The program is hosted by Stephanie Klett, who earned an Emmy-award at the 2010 Chicago/ Midwest Emmy Ceremony for on-camera hosting. For more information on air dates and times, and to view a clip of the program, visit www.discoverwisconsin.com.

The Post has several copies of the DVD of the above episode on the American Legion, if you wish to view it at home. Please see Linda to borrow a copy

WARNING TO VETERANS

Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. <http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr.Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Years Day
2	3	4 S.A.L. Meeting Membership Mtg	5	6 Epiphany	7	8
9	10 Save the Eagles Day	11 House Committee Meeting	12	13	14	15
16	17 Smoker Mtg Ex Board Mtg	18 Auxiliary Meeting	19 4th District Meeting	20	21 Midwinter Conference	22 Midwinter Conference
23 Midwinter Conference	24	25	26 County Council Meeting	27 Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord 1973	28	29
30	31					

Harv's Quik Quiz Answers

1. b. South Carolina
2. a. Buffalo Bill Cody, Note: he later formed a traveling "Wild West Circus".
3. a. Freeze Food - in 1925
4. c. Wyoming, Note: also, Idaho and Montana. Yellowstone was the first World's National Park.
5. b. Lou Gehrig - whose nickname was "The Iron Man".

SHOULD I SALUTE OR PLACE MY HAND OVER MY HEART?

Public law 110-181 states "all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may tender the military salute.

All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

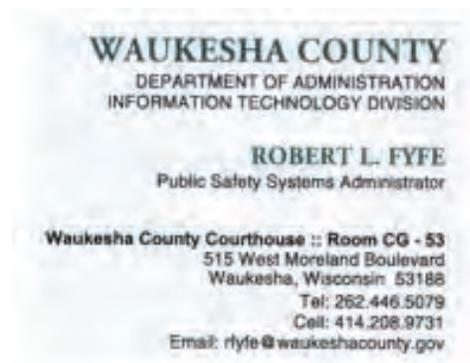
Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

To clarify, retirees may salute or place their hand over their heart to render respect to the U.S. Flag.

IT IS NOT PROPER ATTIRE TO SALUTE THE FLAG IN A BASEBALL CAP, OR NON-MILITARY STYLE HAT. LEGION CAPS ARE CONSIDERED PROPER HEADWEAR FOR SALUTING THE FLAG.

- January 1, 2011 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
 January 4
 6:30 pm - Blood Pressure Screening
 6:30 pm - S.A.L. Meeting - Wimmer Room
 7:30 pm - Post Membership Meeting
 January 10 **SAVE THE EAGLES DAY**
 (not the football team)
 January 11
 6:30 pm - House Committee Meeting
 January 17
 6:00 - Smoker Committee Meeting
 7:00 - Executive Board Meeting
 January 18
 7:00 pm -Auxiliary Meeting
 January 19
 4th District Meeting - Hosted by Post 299
 7:30 pm - Cliffords Supper Club
 10481 W Forest Home Ave, Hales Corners
 January 21, 22, 23
 Midwinter Conference
 Ho-Chuck Casino
 January 26
 7:30 - County Council Meeting
 March 4 **ANNUAL POST SMOKER**

- December 31 **New Years Eve**
 Bar closes at 6:00 pm
 January 1, 2011 **New Years Day**
 January 4, 2011
 6:30 pm - S.A.L. Meeting - Wimmer Room
 7:30 pm - Membership Meeting - Cramer Hall



Call Post member Robert Fyfe if you need help with you computer needs

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2006-2007 Past State Commander
Charles Cooney



Address Service Requested

Dated Material

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PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

ARTICLE IX QUORUM

Section 1. At any regular or special meeting of this Post a quorum for the transaction of business shall exist when there are present not less than ten percent (10%) of the duly qualified members of the Post.

Change to read:

Section 1. At any regular or special meeting of this Post a quorum for the transaction of business shall exist when there are present not less than one (1) member more than the number of duly qualified members serving on the executive board.

PLEASE NOTE: This does not mean that this is the executive board plus one member. It means that if there are 18 elected members of the board, there must be 19 POST members available to vote on any business. So if there are 2 members of the Executive Board that are absent, there still must be 19 Post members present to conduct business. Should the number of elected positions increase or decrease, there must still be one (1) more than the elected amount of members needed to conduct business.

LAST MAN'S CLUB DANCE

March 12, 2011
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
\$8.00 per person

Mark your calendar for a fun evening and come out and join us for music with "Surfing to Mecca". This group plays 50's and 60's music and also accepts requests for your favorite songs. Admission includes refreshments and snacks.



TAPS

Ray Lukaszewicz
December 23, 2010
Army - WWII

We extend our
sympathy to his
family.

