



The Todd Tattler

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

January 2012
Volume 4, Issue 6

Member of WALPA & NALPA

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, January 3, 2012
6:30 pm
S.A.L. Membership Mtg
...
Tuesday, January 3, 2012
7:30 pm
Membership Meeting
...
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
5:00 pm
House Committee Mtg
...
Monday, January 16, 2012
6:00 pm
Smoker Committee Mtg
...
Monday, January 16, 2012
7:00 pm
Executive Board Meeting
...
Tuesday, January 17, 2012
7:00 pm
Unit 537 Auxiliary Mtg
...
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
7:30 pm
4th District Meeting
Hales Corners Post 299
Cliffords Supper Club
Hales Corners
...
Wednesday, January 25, 2012
7:30 pm
Milw Cty Council Mtg
Greendale Post 416
6351 W Grange Ave
Greendale

HAPPY NEW YEAR

COMMANDERS CORNER

Walter Pfeiffer

Christmas has come and gone, and Linda and I hope that everyone had a Joyous Christmas with family and friends.

I wish to thank everyone who made the Todd Post Family Christmas Party a success. Darryl Wnuk and his crew put on a wonderful meal. The hall was decorated nicely and everyone appeared to have a good time. You could not go away hungry from this feast. The children were thrilled with the gifts they received from "Santa" (Mark Sandow).

We were pleased that State Commander Denise Rohan and her husband Mike; District Commander John Edelblute and his fiancée and County Commander Ray "Godfather" Pasbrig and his friend, were able to join us for our evening of festivities. We were of course pleased that Senior Vice President, Diana Sirovina and County President, Sue Hembrook, both members of our Post Auxiliary, were able to join us, with their spouses.

The New Year is upon us, and we now look forward to the upcoming events of 2012. First is our Post Smoker "Card Party", to be held on Friday, March 2, 2012. This is our only Fund Raising Activity for the Post itself. We have other fund raising activities, that are directed at specific programs that help in other areas, such as helping our Veterans and their families, and specific Children and Youth projects. This fund raising is to help with things that benefit our post members, such as the picnic, Christmas Party, and a couple of Post "Socials" dances that we have each year. It also helps to fund the cost of the Post Newsletter. Without funds from the Smoker, we would have to raise membership dues, and this is not something that we wish to do, as many of our members would not be able to absorb an increase in dues.

Advance raffle tickets, for the Smoker, will be available at the Membership meeting on January 3, 2012. We cannot mail tickets, so if you would like to take a chance at winning, please mail your \$5.00 donation to the post, to the attention of Linda, and she will mail your ticket stubs to

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1st Vice Linda Pfeiffer

We currently have 282 paid members for 2012. We need to reach 293 for 100%. And, should we exceed that, we will be eligible for cash awards from the 4th District. I love challenges, and really like cash awards. We only need 11

One of our members questioned why our dues are \$35.00 Only \$10.00 remains in the Post. That really is not a lot for a membership in an organization. \$13.50 goes to National and \$11.50 goes to State. The amounts that go to State and National help to fund all the programs that are sponsored on those levels. This includes, but is not limited to, scholarships, emergency assistance for Veterans, the Badger Legionnaire, and the National Legion Magazine. For our retired members, who have ten (10) or more years in the post and pay \$28.00 for dues, that is only \$3.00 that remains at the Post level. If you have additional questions on dues, please contact me and I will be glad to talk to you, or attend a membership meeting and your questions can be answered at that time.

We ask that you continue to invite eligible members to join the Legion, and remember to let them know that their wives and daughters can join the Auxiliary, and that their sons can join the Sons of the Legion. Dues for Auxiliary are \$18.00, and the SAL dues are \$10.00.

2ND VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Brian Duerr

I would like to thank those of you who attended our Post Christmas Party the evening of December 10, 2011. I hope each and everyone had a good time. I thought the food was excellent. I would like to thank Darryl Wnuk, Becky and Scott De Caire, Denise Rushman, Sandy Blaschke and Tim Hansen for their help in setting up the hall and making the wonderful food we ate that night.

I also want to thank Linda Pfeiffer and Dorothy Schackmann, Gretchen Davies, Doug Kueny, Magician Ted Svea, and Santa, Mark Sandow, for helping to make the Children's Party a success. It takes a team to accomplish great things.

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 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

We have WI-FI in our post building and bar. If you stop in and need to check email, etc, you are able to do so. This is for battery-operated devices only.

If you have an event coming up, or know of a family member or friend who is in need of a hall, please remember that we have a hall for rent. Call Julie, our manager, for availability and cost.

To hear a detailed report on what will be happening with the remodeling of the Post Hall, please attend the membership meeting in January.

NO ONE will be allowed in the hall during construction, as it will be a "Hard Hat Area" only. Please respect this restriction.

Again, we ask that all Post, Auxiliary and SAL Members refrain from discussing Legion and Post business at the bar. When at the bar you are a customer, please conduct yourself accordingly. People who are not members of the Post, do not need to know what is being done on the business level of the Post, Auxiliary, or SAL.

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. So take advantage of this opportunity to monitor your health.

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. In 1959, what was the first western to air in color?
a. Gunsmoke
b. The Big Valley c. Bonanza
2. Who established the first American volunteer fire brigade in 1736?
a. Samuel Adams b. Benjamin Franklin
c. George Washington
3. How many presidents lost the nationwide popular vote, but won the election?
a. 4 b. 6 c. 8
4. Dwight D. Eisenhower said of this city "There must be something in the water here" because it bred so many heroes?
a. Cedar Rapids, IA b. Pueblo, CO
c. Austin, TX
5. Who was born Phoebe Ann Masey, in Ohio, on August 13, 1860.
a. Susan B. Anthony b. Annie Oakley
c. Calamity Jane

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.

Hello everyone! I hope all is well. I have been talking to a few people around the post that still smoke and the majority (not all) of them have showed interest in giving up this bad habit altogether. We thought that maybe if we got together as a group and tried to quit, we might have a better chance of succeeding. There were a couple of other ideas thrown out that I am still looking into and I am still putting together a plan. If you want to be a part of this please let me know and I will get back to you in January with the details. I quit for 4 years after a

heart attack and fell off the wagon about 10 months ago. It was very easy to get addicted to them again and I feel a noticeable difference in my health. My doctor had to up my blood pressure medication, although I did not have the courage to tell him I was smoking again. That's my own personal story and reason for quitting. If I could make a big impact on other people's lives in the process, then that would be great too. So that is why I will be inviting all to join us, AL members, SAL, Ladies Aux., and our bar patrons and employees. Again, let me know if you wish to join in on our smoke out. For now, please read the article below on smoking and tobacco cessation.

Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation

Don't Give Up on Quitting! No matter how long you've smoked or how many times you've tried to quit, you can be smoke-free. The VA can help you succeed. Talk to your VA health care provider about how to quit smoking, including getting medication to improve your chances of quitting and a referral to a VA smoking cessation clinic.

To find the nearest VA health care facility:

- Go to VA Facility Locator
- Call toll-free 1-877-222-8387

Learn more about why to quit smoking and how to quit.

Smoking and Tobacco Use Facts

Smoking is the leading preventable cause of premature death and a leading cause of illness and mortality. Smoking and tobacco use cessation persists as one of the VA's biggest public health challenges. Many Veterans began using tobacco while in the military. The rate of smoking among Veterans in the VA health care system is higher than among the U.S. population.

Approximately 70% of all smokers say they want to quit, but even the most motivated may try to quit 5 or 6 times before they are able to quit. Over 3 million Americans successfully quit smoking every year.

To help Veterans quit smoking and tobacco use, VA offers:

- Screening for tobacco use during primary care visits
- Individual counseling

- Prescriptions for nicotine replacement therapy, such as a nicotine patch or gum, or other medications
- Participation in evidence-based smoking cessation programs

Veterans may contact the nearest VA health care facility to schedule an appointment.

Noteworthy

- Help is available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week at the "Quit Tobacco, make everyone proud"*† Web site. The Department of Defense/TRICARE has partnered with the VA to give Veterans access to their tobacco cessation website including online tools, personalized quit plans and live chat services. Veterans should click on the "VA Veterans" link to access these resources. Posters and a wallet card also available as reminders for this online resource.
- How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease - The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking - Attributable Disease (2010)*

The 30th Surgeon General report on smoking and health describes in detail ways tobacco smoke damages the body and causes disease through smoking and exposures to secondhand smoke

- VA's Three-Part Tobacco Use Cessation - Treatment Guidance

For healthcare professionals, two easy-to-use charts and a table detailing VA medication options

- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Takes Enforcement Action Against E-Cigarette Companies*
FDA has taken enforcement action against five electronic cigarette companies for violations of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act, including unsubstantiated claims and poor manufacturing practices. Read FDA's updated information for consumers on e-cigarettes* and learn more about the potential health risks of e-cigarettes* (424 KB, PDF). The VA has also issued an Information Letter (IL 10-2011-008) (56 KB, PDF) providing information on e-cigarettes including guidance from the FDA and the World Health Organization.

- Varenicline and Bupropion Medication Safety News from FDA* and VA's Clinical Guidance/ Criteria for Use (Varenicline) Safety warnings and prescribing guidance for health professionals about varenicline and bupropion, prescription medications used to help patients stop smoking. (Note: On the VA's Clinical Guidance page, look for "Varenicline, Criteria for Prescribing" located near the bottom of the page.)

COLOR GUARD

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.

It has been another busy month for our Squadron. December 10th was the annual Post Christmas party and it was good to see many of our SAL members in attendance. Our SAL chef and cooks prepared and served a delicious meal that was enjoyed by all. On December 16th several of our members ventured to Candy Cane Lane to assist in collecting donations for the MACC Fund. On December 19th our members facilitated the delivery of several pallets of donated canned food and clothing to St John's Church on Greenfield Avenue. The outreach program at this church is instrumental in assisting area veterans and their families who are either homeless or in need of assistance. Special thanks to our dedicated members and to the Post and Auxiliary members that participated in the event.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 3rd, at 6:30 pm at the Post. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. We have a lot of business to discuss and need your input as we begin planning what our projects will be for the coming months. If you have not paid your 2012 dues, please send them in as soon as possible. Dues are \$10.00

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 stress of property taxes and holiday shopping are upon us. As always, consider giving time to your fellow veterans. Personal visits are a wonderful gift. Also, while cleaning, remember that gently used books, magazines and dvd movies can be given to the local VA hospital or domiciliary, Dry Hooch, the Kenosha Outreach House or Union Grove nursing home, other Veterans homeless shelters, or shipped to Afghanistan whenever we are able to ship more Gatorade.

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 @ 262-784-2807. Letters will be available at the January 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 a gallon jar of pickles, 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. Even a small jar of pickles, etc helps.

Lastly let me remind you about the Smoker raffle tickets. Raffle tickets will be available at the January membership meeting, and at the Post Bar. 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, 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.

Since I mentioned the Postal regulations about pre-printed Type "A" raffle tickets (raffles that must specifically state the date and time of the drawing and have the license number printed on each ticket), I might as well mention other raffle license restrictions. Type "B" covers all short term raffles such as the paddles or the little tickets where the buyer keeps one and the other is dropped into a container for random selection. Type "B" requires the winner to be present at the time of the drawing. Both types A and B are ONLY for the use of Post 537, Squadron 537 and Auxiliary Unit 537. We cannot jeopardize our license by allowing it to be used by any other group, even if said group considers Cramer Hall their home! To insure compliance with WI Gaming and US Postal regulations, and to verify proper reporting of all raffle activity, any proposed raffles must be pre-approved by the Post executive board. NO group can use the Post Raffle license off the Post Premises without written approval of the Post Executive Board.

Also, a raffle report must be prepared each time a raffle is conducted. This report must include the amount received in the raffle, and the cost of the items raffled. All this must be reported to the State Department of Gaming.

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

Mark Sandow - 2nd Vice Commander

I hope you and your family had a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year. We had time this year to see all our relatives and in-laws and people we hadn't seen since who knows when. It was good to have some down time for a change.

We attended the Post Christmas Party/Dinner/Dance on December 10th. 2nd Vice Commander Brian Duerr and his crew did a GREAT Job! The food was outstanding. If anyone didn't have enough to eat it wasn't because of a lack of food.

The 4th District Oratorical Contest is scheduled for Sunday, January 15, 2012, at George Washington -Bay View Post 180 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Regional and final Contests are scheduled at Ripon College on February 25, 2012. If you would like to "work" this Oratorical Contest, please let me know. If you know of a student who would like to participate in the Contest, please contact 3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich. There are scholarships awarded to the winners of this contest. Any student who is planning on attending college, should take advantage of this opportunity to win a scholarship.

At this point we have one Student that is being sponsored by the Todd Post. It is not too late for additional students to sign up for the chance to win scholarships. Talk up this wonderful program with your family and friends.

Mid-Winter Convention will be January 19 - 22, 2012 at Ho-Chuck Casino. Reports on the activities at mid-winter will be given at the February membership meeting.

The next meeting of the Mighty 4th District will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, sponsored by Hales Corners Post 299, at Cliffords Supper Club, 10418 W Forest Home Ave, Hales Corners, at 7:30 pm.

See all of you around the Post.

COMBINED 4TH / 5TH DISTRICT BOWLING TOURNAMENT For all the Legion Family

Sunday, February 12, 2012
AMF - 7505 W Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Bowling will start at 1:00 pm
Dues for 2012 must be verified with Post Adjutant

This is open to all Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members.

Cost is \$60.00 per team.

If you want to get a team together, forms will be available at the membership meeting in January, or contact the Editor for a form.

Entries must be postmarked no later than January 20, 2012.

The last couple of years, our SAL team and Auxiliary team have placed in the "winners circle".

Rules: 2012 dues cards must be produced. Bowling is based on 200 scratch. Bowler with an average will take average plus 75% of the difference from 200. Bowler with average of 200 or more will receive minus pins. Bowlers with no District Tournament average will use 140 average for men, 125 for women. SAL will bowl in Men's Division, Jr Auxiliary members will bowl in the Women's Division.

Here is your chance to come out and have fun with members of the Legion Family. If you do not bowl you are welcome to come and watch the bowlers "roll" their balls, down the alleys.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Chaplain Gretchen Davies
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Service Officer Nick Berg
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Adjutant Mark Sandow
4th District, 2nd Chair
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House Committee:
Wally Pufahl - 414-541-0497
Doug Kueny - 414-425-0059
Brian Duerr - 414-541-7703

Unit President Sue Middlestead
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Robert Sirovia Jr.
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PROPER FLAG DISPOSAL

According to the Flag Code, any American flag that is worn, damaged or tattered beyond repair should be retired in a respectful and dignified manner. The preferred method is burning. This may shock some, since it is a well known fact that burning the flag is illegal. This, however, is an exception to the rule. You can burn the flag yourself, making sure it is done in a discreet and professional manner, or many organizations like the American Legion, the Boy Scouts Council and the Girl Scouts Council will perform a flag retirement ceremony and burn your flag for you. In this case, burning signifies purification and rebirth.

Although burning is the preferred method, it is also acceptable to seal your old flag in a box or bag and bury it. The most important factor is showing respect to the flag during its disposal.

Each year, on Memorial Day, the Todd Post conducts a Flag Disposal Ceremony in the Post Parking Lot at 1:00 pm. We encourage all members of the Post to attend this ceremony. We also encourage our members to bring their children, grandchildren, family and friends to this ceremony, to show respect for the Flag of our Nation.

WASHING YOUR FLAG

If your American flag is beginning to look dirty or dingy, washing it may save it from an early retirement. The Flag Code does not prohibit washing flags. In fact washing your flag on a regular basis can prolong its life. Most outdoor flags can be hand-washed with a mild laundry detergent. If you're not sure if your flag can be washed, or of the proper washing procedure, take it to the dry cleaners. Many offer free flag-cleaning services, especially in the month of July.

Despite the common myth, flags that touch the ground do not need to be destroyed. If your flag does touch the ground, and it gets dirty, simply wash it. Allowing a flag to touch the ground is disrespectful to the flag, but of course accidents do happen. Just try to prevent it from happening again.

REPAIRING THE FLAG

As long as the flag is serviceable, it is acceptable to repair minor damages. While it is permitted to do repairs yourself, taking your flag to a seamstress may be a safer option. It's important that the repairs are not noticeable, and that the dimensions of the flag aren't altered. Flags with large tears or excessive fraying should be retired.

To avoid damage to your flag, bring it inside in bad weather, and make sure your flagpole or staff is in good condition. Rust can corrode your flag. If you are putting a flag into storage, make sure it is dry and the bag or container locks out moisture. Mold and mildew can grow on damp fabric.

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ ANSWERS

1. c. Bonanza
2. b. Benjamin Franklin
3. a. 4 John Quincy Adams
Rutherford B Hayes
William H Harrison
George W Bush
4. b. Pueblo, CO
5. b. Annie Oakley

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION

for Children and Youth Programs

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.

TODD POST BRAG PAGE



Students from St. Matthias Parish School, who won the Post Coloring Contest.



Santa with his Mrs. (Mark Sandow and wife Sue.



Presentation of Certificate to Vicki, an Asst Manger from Walmart in New Berlin, for all they did to help with the Gatorade Drive.



Presentation of Certificate to Lisa Bright at Husco Int in Waukesha, by Commander Pfeiffer, for the donation of 7 cases of Gatorade for the Troops, from the company and its employees.

Right: Santa with Auxilairy State Sr Vice President and Post member, Diana Sirovina.




correction from last month

LAST MAN'S CLUB MEETING NOTICE


President Dick McClain

Officers of the Last Man's Club are asked to be present for a meeting at the Post on Tuesday January 3, 2012, at 7:00 pm. We have an important item to be discussed.



TAPS

David Flairty
December 14, 2011
Navy - Vietnam



Our Sympathy is extended to his brother Mike and all of Dave's family and friends.

POW / MIA banner. Dave Flairty's name was omitted, and it's Mike Wischer, not Mick. Editor's error. - Sorry.