



The Todd Tattler

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

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

...
January 1, 2013
Happy New Year
...
January 8, 2013
Membership Meeting
7:30 pm - Post Hall
...
January 8, 2013
SAL Meeting
6:30 pm - Wimmer Room
...
January 15, 2013
Unit 537 Aux Meeting
7:00 pm - Post Hall
...
January 16, 2013
4th District Meeting
Greendale Post 416
...
January 17 - 20, 2013
Mid-Winter Conference
Ho-Chuck Casino
...
January 21, 2013
Four Pillars Project Mtg
6:15 pm
...
January 21, 2013
Executive Bd Meeting
7:00 pm - Post Hall
...
Sunday, February 10, 2013
4th / 5th District
Combined Bowling
Tournament
Reservations required
Call Post Commander for
entry form

COMMANDERS CORNER

Walter Pfeiffer

Here it is the start of a New Year "2013". The end of the world did not arrive, so I am asking those Post Members that did not renew their membership for 2013 to please do so, as quickly as possible. As Linda has stated in previous issues of the Tattler, if your dues are not paid, your Badger Legionnaire, and National Legion Magazine will end in January. Also, all discounts and benefits that you receive will end. While these are incentives, they are not the real reason to belong to the American Legion. With all the talk of budget cuts in Washington, we really need to keep the voices of the Veterans strong. We do not want to see cuts in funding for our men and women who have served this nation, who have sacrificed their life and limb to protect us. And this includes many of our own Post Members. We need to be strong, and your membership is the starting point. Only together can we preserve the GI Bill of rights, including medical care for our Veterans in need. Many of the Vietnam era Veterans felt ignored and slighted, and it took years for our Veterans who were affected by "Agent Orange" to receive help. This help needs to continue, as many of the men and women who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War need care, as well as those men and women who served in Korea on the DMZ lines. The purpose of the American Legion is to protect and serve our Veterans. Your membership does just that. And I thank everyone who has paid his / her membership dues.

When we as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen were called to serve and protect our Nation, we did so with Pride. Let us not forget that we as Veterans have to continue to serve our fellow Veterans and Community. We as "American Legion Members" have the will to help and move forward with all the Veterans Programs that our Post sponsors. We thank our Ladies of Auxiliary Unit 537 and the Men of Squadron 537 for all that they do for our Veterans, also.

I also want to welcome all the new members who have joined our post this year. We hope to see you at our meetings and other events.

There are only a few days left for the Sportsman Raffle. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Prizes, which are certificates to Cabela's are: 1st prize, \$400.00; 2nd prize, \$200.00; 3rd Prize, \$100.00; 4th prize, \$50.00; 5th prize, \$50.00; 6th prize is a \$25.00 certificate to Sherpers. We need help in selling these tickets, so if you wish to purchase one, please send your check or money order to the Post and we will mail your ticket portion to you. are available at the bar. Drawing will be at 9:00 pm on January 8, 2013.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Linda Pfeiffer

We have reached 100%. We have had 42 new transfers from the Holding Post, so we are over the top. However, we still have 2012 Post members who have not yet renewed their dues for 2013. Please contact the Commander, or myself if there is an issue with your renewal. We really want to see you maintain your membership.

To all of our members: "Thank you for serving, and for continuing to serve".

Dues for 2013 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. Invite someone to join.

2ND VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Brian Duerr

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Legion Christmas Party on December 8, 2012. I also want to thank Squadron 537 (Son's of the American Legion) for their generous donation towards the Christmas Party and also the Ladies Auxiliary for their donation.

Our Children's Party was wonderful. Thank you to our Elf, Josie Schackmann, and Dorothy Schackmann (Auxiliary members) for helping the children with a wreath project to take home. I want to thank "Theodore" the magician, who again came to entertain the children and adults. In addition, thank you to Gretchen Davies and Linda Pfeiffer for helping Santa shop and wrap the gifts and making sure that all was ready for the children. And of course, thank you to Santa (Mark Sandow), for making sure the children received a gift.

Thank you to the following people, who prepared the delicious food we had at the party. Darrell Wnuk, Aunt Sandy, Scott and Becky DeCaire, Jim Weir, Donny Walsh, Jason Montgomery, Danny Johnson, Gretchen Davies and Steve Brady. Without all of your help, the party would not have been a success.

Happy New Year.

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Gretchen Davies

We start 2013 with the continuing theme. Count your hours and good deeds, complete the form so credits are received. The Legion voice is heard afar so long as you brag about who you are.

If you have gently used (clean) clothing to donate for needy Veterans, please contact Linda Pfeiffer, or me, and a home will be found for these items. Our homeless female Veterans are in need of clothing and personal items as well.

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 5 of this Newsletter.

If you need help with filing claims, or getting information on your rights as a Veteran, please contact:

Milwaukee County Service Officer Jim Duff
6419 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI
Phone 414-266-1234

Information: On the Wisconsin American Legion website, and the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary Website, contains is a list of scholarships that are available to the children of Legion Members. Please check this site out if your children or grandchildren are planning to attend college. Applications have deadlines. If one does not apply for help, one cannot receive help.

4TH DISTRICT REPORT

Mark Sandow

4th District 1st Vice Commander

The next meeting of the Mighty 4th District will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 7:30 pm, at Greendale Post 416, 6351 W Grange Road, Greendale, sponsored by Hales Corners Post 299..

Remember that everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

ED'S HEAD BANGIN' QUIZ

1. Where was the Titanic built?
 - a. Gothenburg, Sweden
 - b. Belfast, Ireland
 - c. Liverpool, England
2. In 1904 what state hosted the first Olympic games held outside Europe?
 - a. Missouri
 - b. Illinois
 - c. New York
3. Where is the oldest existing amusement park, which opened at the site of a natural spring in 1583?
 - a. Bakken, Denmark
 - b. Hofn, Iceland
 - c. Luzern, Switzerland
4. What is the only food a cockroach won't eat?
 - a. Cauliflower
 - b. Squash
 - c. cucumber
5. Which elected president had the longest inaugural speech at 8,444 words?
 - a. Thomas Jefferson
 - b. Herbert Hoover
 - c. William Henry Harrison

SAL SQUADRON 537

Bob Sirovina Jr, Commander

Greetings to everyone! I hope you had a great Holiday! Our Squadron has been very busy since my last article. Our Holiday food donation program was another great success this year. We collected a huge number of non-perishable items that we donated to a local church that helps homeless veterans and several individuals as well.

With the proceeds of some of our recent fundraisers and items from the food collections we were able to provide Christmas dinner baskets to several veterans. Through the generosity of so many, we were able to make a huge donation to the Boudicca House women's shelter right here in Milwaukee. Boudicca House has been in existence for around three years and houses female veterans that are transitioning out of treatment facilities or were in danger of being homeless. At present time, there are eight women residing there, one with a four year old child. We were able to provide them all the items needed for a wonderful Christmas

dinner, gifts for the little girl, and items for their pantry as well.

The delivery was made the Saturday before Christmas and the women veterans were absolutely over-joyed and extremely thankful for the meal they would enjoy, thanks to our fundraising efforts. The residents assisted in unloading the many bags and boxes of food and gladly posed for pictures after. I want to take this opportunity to extend a special thank you to everyone that helped make these donations possible. Through your generous donations we were definitely able to make a difference in the lives of these veterans.

As 2013 begins, I look forward to our next projects so we can continue doing special things for our veterans. If you have not attended a meeting lately, why not make it one of your goals for 2013 to come and be involved in our Squadron's projects. As always, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to call contact me at 414-321-1479 or durango1@wi.rr.com.

UPCOMING ANNUAL POST CARD PARTY /SMOKER

Support Post 537. The annual Smoker proceeds offset the administrative costs of maintaining our Post. Not just printing and postage and office supplies! Post 537 gives reduced dues for any retired member with more than 10 years membership in the Post. And, upon occasion, we waive dues for hardship. Contact the 1st Vice or Service Officer, if you know of anyone having financial difficulties. We also would like to know if a Post member needs help in any way. We strive to get help to our members.

Thank you to Mike Wischer for the generous food donations for the Smoker. This is a great way to offset the cost of running the event.

There are other items that come under the "general fund" and the Smoker is the only fund raiser that fills those coffers. Please support the Smoker by donating items towards the meal or mini-raffles, or by contacting your favorite vendors to obtain gift certificates. Tickets are printed, so you may purchase the main raffle tickets: 6 tickets for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each. We also ask that you generously give of your time as March 1, 2013 approaches! You may contact me or the 1st Vice for the solicitation letters and or tickets.

4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY

Sue Hembrook

262-843-4791 - genesuehem@wi.rr.com

We in the Auxiliary Branch of the family wish everyone a most happy and prosperous New Year. May everyone keep up the wonderful programs that we have started for our veterans and continue to come up with new ideas in which to serve them. We look forward to working together as a Legion family to offer more for our veterans.

One of these events is the upcoming dance being sponsored by Unit 416, in which the profits are going to support our female veterans. This event will be held on Friday February 15, 2013 from 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm at Greendale Post 416, 63rd and Grange. When you bring a bag of individually wrapped candy or chocolate you will receive a door prize ticket. The cost of this evening is \$15.00 per person. You are encouraged to wear your uniforms or 40's or 50's clothing. Please contact me for further information about this event.

The annual 4th District George Washington Luncheon will be held on Monday February 18, 2013 at Klemmer's Banquet Facility. Reservations are due by

February 7th. Please contact Diana Sirovina to make your reservation, 414-321-1479. All Legion members are invited to attend this Luncheon. Cost is \$18.00 per person.

Other events to mark in your calendars: April 27, 2013, is the State Commander's and Department President's Testimonial Dinner. May 25, 2013 will be our first "Ball" with proceeds to go toward our Homeless Female Veteran Project, which will help in obtaining housing for the Lady Veterans. Details on these two events will be published shortly. We need your support to make these events fun filled and profitable.

Our homeless female veteran project headed up by Kathy Baranyk has become a very busy one. She aids female veterans to establish living quarters and in some cases also their children. We have provided many household items for these women. One problem we have encountered is that we receive donations when we are not actively assisting any one. We have acquired a storage unit and are actively seeking donations from any post, squadron or unit in order to keep this unit. Please contact me if anyone is willing to donate to this worthwhile cause



Really
Chuck??

Did you get
what you
wanted for
Christmas?

The Legion is always about business?
We do have fun. At the December 4th District Christmas Party, Commander Wally Pfeiffer and Department President Diana Sirovina, presented State Commander Wayne Jensen with a "bedmate". Commander Jensen will be having knee surgery January 4th, and he needs a friend, who will not hog the bed, kick, or roll over on his side of the bed.
Be sure to ask Wayne about the
3 Musketeer Candy Bars.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Doug Kuney - 414-425-0059
Brian Duerr - 414-541-7703

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

ED'S HEAD BANGIN QUIZ ANSWERS

1. b. Belfast, Ireland
2. c. Missouri
3. c. Bakken, Denmark
4. a. Cucumber
5. c. William Henry Harrison

FOUR PILLARS SUPPORT "SPORTSMAN'S RAFFLE"

Gretchen Davies / Linda Pfeiffer -
co-chairs

We all love to brag about our kids, and even more so about our grandkids. It would be fabulous if the 537 Family could sponsor an additional student to both Badger Girls & Badger Boys this year. AND, potentially, one of our own at the Oratorical Contest. The Children & Youth account is dwindling, please help replenish it by purchasing a \$5 "Sportsman Raffle" ticket. Odds are so much better than the average lottery, and impacting a child's life is a huge payoff even if you do not win one of the prizes. DRAWING will be held on 01/08/2013 at 9:00 pm. You do not need to be present to win, but, if you haven't attended a meeting recently you might enjoy seeing old friends!

Dates on the calendar are closer than they appear: MARCH FIRST is approaching rapidly. Please consider spending the evening at the Post playing cards or cribbage, dominoes or board games. It is a smoke free environment. Lots of raffles, great food, and the fish bowl will be as fun as it was last year. Keep those donations coming! Thank you to all that have already donated.

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 30, 2013. The H A Todd Jr Post 537, Bell Telephone Post 427, Milwaukee Police Post 415, and the F Bernie Schmitz Post 219 (all of us have our meetings at the Todd Post), are planning a joint Fund Raising event for The Fisher House. If you would like to serve on the committee for planning this event, please contact Linda or me. Our 1st

meeting will be held on January 30, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the Post Hall. Come with ideas. We need lots of people to make this event a success.

For our new members: The Fisher House will be built on the grounds of the Zablocki Medical Center. It is like "the Ronald McDonald House" that is available for the families of sick children at Children's Hospital. The difference is, that this will be for the families of the Veterans (and Veterans from out of the local area) who need a place to stay while the Veteran is receiving medical treatment. This is a wonderful way to serve our Veterans in need. Donations of money are accepted as well.

More information will follow in the February newsletter.

ALUMINUM CANS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH FUND

Please continue to save aluminum Cans and other recycleable metal for Children & Youth. You can bring the cans to the post and give them to the Commander. You can also call Commander Pfeiffer and he will make arrangements to pick them up from you.

Thank you to Post Members Dorothy and Frank Orlando for continuing to collect cans for the Post and Pop-Tops for the Auxiliary.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Is it not too late to sign up for the Legion Oratorical Contest. The District Contest will be held on January 12, 2013. If you have a high school student who wants to participate, please contact Commander Pfeiffer asap.



Four of the winners of the coloring contest



Santa and children at Childrens Christmas Party



Santa (Mark Sandow)
Mrs Santa (Gretchen Davies
and the Elf (Josie Schackmann)



Adopted 4th grade class
at Manitoba School.
The children were very
grateful for all the school
supplies, flag books, and
flags. Mrs Wirth is their
teacher, and
3rd Vice Jim Middlestead
and Jim Marinkovich
presented the gifts to the
Children from the
Post 537 Family.

Again, thank you to the
members of the Post,
Auxiliary and SAL who
donated school supplies
for the Children.



Theodore the Magician
with his helpers at the Childrens Christmas Party

TAPS

Martin P Szemborski
Army -- Korea
December 10, 2012

We extend our
sympathy to his
family.



May he rest in peace in
the Arms of the
Commander of us All