



The
Todd Tattler

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

January 2015

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**DATES
TO REMEMBER**

January 1, 2015

New Year's Day

January 6, 2015

Membership Meeting
7:00 pm - Post Hall

January 6, 2015

SAL Meeting
6:30 pm - Wimmer Room

January 19, 2015

Executive Bd Meeting
7:00 pm - Wimmer Room

January 19, 2015

Auxiliary Meeting
7:00 pm - Post Hall

February 3, 2015

Membership Meeting
7:00 pm - Post Hall

February 3, 2015

SAL Meeting
6:30 pm - Wimmer Room

February 14, 2015

Valentine's Day

February 16, 2015

Executive Bd Meeting
7:00 pm - Wimmer Room

Commander's Corner

Happy and Healthy New Year to All!

You know that we as a family are a very strong group; SAL, Auxiliary, Corporation and Legion, especially when we work together. The SAL started a fundraising Mission to help support the "Veterans Drive 2014". This has been pushed and supported by the Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and County Executive Chris Abele. It is to benefit the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. What this organization does is help homeless veterans get off the streets and into apartments or homes. What the drive was looking for is a specific list of household items and sundries to get these Veterans on their feet and back into society in their own home. After hearing about the SAL's mission, the rest of the family was able to join in and help out. Each of the family members; SAL, Auxiliary, Corporation and Legion donated \$250 towards the event. The group of firefighters, including last year's firefighter of the year, donated \$400 towards the event. All totaled, that's \$1400, of which we spent at the dollar store purchasing most of the items needed. As I type this article, the SAL are still possibly collecting more funds for this event. The stuff will be delivered to the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative on Saturday December 27th. I would like to give a special Thank You to the SAL. They are here to help support this post and it seems that most times we as a Legion are trying to catch up to them in their efforts to support Veterans. Thank You. I would also like to thank the Auxiliary, the Corporation (Julie) and Post #537 for supporting and donating to this effort. Thank You. I am so proud to be a part of this family!

Julie and everyone who helped Julie in the kitchen and the bartenders, for the Bar Christmas Party, Congratulations!! You did a great job! The food was great and a good time is being had by all in attendance. Thank You!

Don't forget, if you wish to attend the mid-winter conference at Ho-Chunk in the Dells, signup soon, if you have not already. It is at the end of January. There is a lot of good training that goes on there and a lot of good people to meet. If you have the opportunity, please go.

Well, I am typing this article up in the office of the post, during the Bar Christmas Party, so.....I must go back to the festivities! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!!

Nick Berg
Commander

Williams Bay Veteran Memorial Controversy

Brief history:

Permit and authorization for memorial in Fall of 2011, interesting twist to this though is the recordings from the meeting documenting approval are now missing. They have all the recordings of meetings before and after, just the one that would clarify what the permit conditions and discussion were is missing.

VFW position is that the permit authorized the maintenance and addition on an on-going basis to memorialize the local veterans.

President Marra's position is that the VFW must re-apply for a permit whenever they wish to make any changes/additions to the memorial.

President Marra directed the Village Building Inspector to issue a citation to the VFW Commander for permit/code violation. Citation issued specifically to Commander Weyhrauch. Last week that citation was rescinded/taken back by the inspector.

President Marra has spoken as a typical politician - speaking of how he supports the troops and veterans but then goes on a personal attack of the VFW Commander and the memorial.

Here are the links to President Marra:

<https://www.facebook.com/JohnMarraVP>

jmarra.president@gmail.com

<https://www.linkedin.com/pub/john-marra/32/116/b18>

And here is the link to the news story:

<http://www.lakegenewebnews.net/Articles-Geneva-Lake-West-i-2014-12-04-255134.114135-Marra-wants-procedure-straight-on-memorial.html>

President Marra deserves a few holiday wishes from the heroes of our communities and to let him know that being a politician does not allow him to target these heroes or their representatives.

Commander's Mail

If anyone would like to do this color guard for one of their games, please contact me, the commander. We need at least 4 people. They are located just west of the city of Appleton off of highway 41 between Wisconsin Ave and Northland Blvd, highway OO. Fox Valley Stadium.

Good Morning! My name is Seth and I'm the Director of Group Sales for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, Class A Minor League Affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers. I'm responsible for organizing Color Guard Groups here at the ballpark. We've had plenty of great Military and Scout Groups present the Colors over the last few years and I'm looking to add some groups that have never had the privilege of doing so before one of our games.

Booking a date to Present the Colors at one of our games is quite easy. Pick a date(s) that would work for your Post and we can check on availability. If available we can put tickets on hold for your group (including spouses, family members, friends, etc...) we will include four FREE tickets as a thank you and everyone else in your group receives the "Group Discount" which is \$8 for Bleacher Seats and \$10.50 for Box Seats (We just ask that your ticket order is made via one person and one payment). We would ask for a final head count and payment for tickets by two weeks before your game.

If this is something you think your Post would be interested feel free to let me know and I'd be happy to help you get a date set up. Also, if you know of any other Posts that may be interested please pass along my contact info.

Thank you for your Service and Happy Holidays!!

Seth Merrill
Director of Group Sales
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers
Class 'A' Affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers
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4TH DISTRICT

Mark Sandow

Welcome to the New Year! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that Santa gave you what you wanted except, of course, the bills. I look forward to a happy and prosperous New Year. The Oratorical Contest will be held at Greendale Post 416 on Saturday, January 10th. You are cordially invited to hear some young people speak on the Constitution and take in some refreshments afterwards. County Commander Ray "Godfather" Pasbrig continues this year as Emcee, and does a good job at it as he enjoys talking to anyone who will listen.

MidWinter is coming up January 15-18th. Look for reports from those attendees in February. Speaking of February, the Four Chaplains' Sunday will be coming up in early February and held at the VA. If you have never attended this ceremony, please consider coming. The history of this event and the emotions are quite moving. More information will be available soon.

I look forward to getting back to pushing membership now that the holidays are behind us. You can still get your dues in and keep getting the American Legion magazine and your newsletter. We as a Post are fortunate that we are as active as we are compared to other Posts in the District and that we have a building where we can hold functions. Several Posts have recently asked to be combined with other Posts as their membership isn't active and is declining. We don't want that so I ask you to pay your dues if you haven't and thank you very much to those of you who have.

The first meeting of the 4th District for 2015 will be held on Wednesday, January 21st, at Greendale Post 416, 6351 W. Grange Ave, at 730pm hosted by Hales Corners Post 416. Hope to see you there.

Mark Sandow

4th District 1st-Vice Commander

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⇒ **Aux Secretary Joan Kroll**

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⇒ **Aux Chaplain Shirley Scott**

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⇒ **Aux Historian Ruth Predith**

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SAL

Danny Key

It's that time of the year again. It's time to bundle up, break out the shovels and stock up on bags of salt. Please be careful, stay warm, walk with care and drive safely.

I hope you all had a happy and joyful holiday season. Please remember all our men and women in the armed forces who can't be home with their families. I'm sure a little prayer would go a long way.

The SAL has accomplished so many great things in 2014 that it's hard to begin to even list them. All the volunteer hours working the pancake/omelet breakfasts for the Legion and the VFW, the Smoker, the spaghetti dinner, the food collections/donations to various food pantries, the Veteran's Day luncheon, the Milwaukee Fire Dept. children's Christmas Party and the dinner for the Wisconsin American Legion Firefighter of the Year award winner and all of his officers and crew and the huge donation to the Homeless Veterans Initiative. This is but a few of the accomplishments for SAL Squadron 537 for 2014.

It's time to start thinking about planning what we will be working on for 2015. Bring your thoughts and ideas to a meeting. We would love to have more member involvement. Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month on the second floor of the Post at 6:30 PM. Are you or is there someone you know who is the son or grandson of a veteran who might like to join the SAL? Applications are available at the Post. Dues are only \$15.00 per year.

One final thing. I'm not only speaking for myself, but I also speak for the officers of the H.A. Todd Post when I say these men are some of the hardest working, dedicated and loyal members of the American Legion Family. In my opinion the men of SAL Squadron 537 are some of the best in the state!! (My opinion and \$2.50 will get you a bottle of beer at the bar). When you see an SAL member please show them the respect and appreciation that you would normally give to any veteran, as some SAL members are also veterans themselves. If you talk nice to them they will even let you buy them a beer :) Thanks for letting me ramble.

Please stay safe and warm this winter. Bless you all.

Danny J. Key - Commander

SAL Squadron 537

3rd VICE COMMANDER

Brian Duerr

The annual Post Smoker will be held on Friday, March 6, 2015. Anyone needing raffle tickets, please contact Dave Wischer or myself. We also have tickets at the bar. Remember the smoker is our main fund raiser of the year to help support our Legion projects. We also need your help in obtaining door prizes. The next time you go to your favorite restaurant, oil change place or any other business, think about asking for a raffle prize to help out the smoker. Dave has letters you can give to the business explaining the smoker.

The annual meeting for the Last Mans Club will be on Sunday, March 22, 2015 starting at 1200hrs for cocktails, eat at 1300hrs and have our meeting around 1400hrs. Any questions please contact me.



POST 537 AUXILIARY REPORT

Debbie Lynch

Happy New Year!!!! Hope everyone had a great Christmas.

February 16th is the George Washington Luncheon at Klemmer's Banquet Center. Tables will be assigned, 8 per table. The cost is \$20 per person. Sign up with Audrey at the January meeting so we can reserve our tables.

Our next meeting will be January 20, 2015. Due to the inclement weather the night of our November meeting we decided to have bingo night in January. So come and join us for a fun time. Show us how you can yell "BINGO".

Also, we have a few members that have not paid their 2015 dues. Please send them to Joan Carter.

Thanks members for making 2014 a great year for our unit. So let's keep up the good work and keep moving forward in 2015.

God Bless America, our Veterans and Active Troops!!!

Ed's Headbanger Quiz

1. Before the Presidential retreat was called "Camp David", what did FDR call it?
 - A. Shangri-La
 - B. Utopia
 - C. Peaceville

2. The prototype of the Weber Grill was constructed using what object?
 - A. Kettle Drum
 - B. Industrial Mixing Bowl
 - C. Marine Buoy

3. The greatest number of shipwrecks were in which 2 Great Lakes?
 - A. Michigan and Erie
 - B. Superior and Michigan
 - C. Superior and Erie

4. Who was the last President born a British Subject?
 - A. Martin Van Buren
 - B. William Henry Harrison
 - C. John Tyler

5. What country star was an inmate in San Quentin when Johnny Cash performed there?
 - A. Johnny Paycheck
 - B. Merle Haggard
 - C. David Allan Coe

Service Officer

Jim Waltich

First off I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Marie and I. I hope you get to see or hear from family near and far. I also hope health and happiness in this holiday season.

Reminding everyone if they need assistance in getting to meetings call and I will try to help.

With the onset of rougher weather, remember to take time to stretch before and take breaks during snow removal to keep you healthy. Anyone needing assistance, contact me and I will try to see if we can help.

Numbers to remember:

- Veterans Crisis line: 1-800-2738255
- Milwaukee County Veterans Service Officer 414-266-1234 or 414-266-1235

As always I can be reached at 414-899-2569 24/7. I will call back as soon as I can!

Thanks. Jim (414-899-2569)

Quiz Answers

1. a. Shangri-La
2. c. Marine Buoy
3. a. Michigan and Erie
4. b. William Henry Harrison
5. b. Merle Haggard

TAPS



We honor all those who have gone before us to the Arms of the Great Commander of us all.

We honor those who are missing and unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts.

May our fallen comrades rest in peace, and may their families be comforted by our thoughts and prayers.