

DATES

TO REMEMBER

- June 7, 2011
6:30 pm
S.A.L. Membership Mtg
...
- 7:30 pm
Membership Meeting
...
- June 14, 2011
6:30 pm
House Committee Mtg
...
- June 15, 2011
7:00 pm
Aux Membership Mtg
...
- June 20, 2011
6:00 pm
Fund Raising
Committee Meeting
...
- 7:00 pm
Executive Board Mtg
...
- July 4, 2011
Independence Day
...
- July 6, 2011
7:00 pm
Pre-Convention Caucus
So. Milwaukee Post
...
- July 13 - 17
Legion State Convention
Appleton, WI
...
- August 6, 2011
Post Picnic
...
- August 13, 2011
Post Corn Roast



COMMANDERS CORNER

Here it is June already and we just held elections for Officers for 2011 - 2012.

The Post Officers are here to help you. As Veterans, we take on this obligation with the hope that we can reach out to those in need. However, we cannot do this if we are not aware that you need help. Please contact Service Officer Nick Berg, or myself if you need assistance. We will do our best to assist you, or direct you on the right path. As a Post, we are not always able to resolve an issue, but we can give you names and phone numbers of the people at the VA Center, in your county, where you can get help. If you are unemployed, please watch the news and your local papers for job fairs for Veterans. The job fair that was held at the State Convention in Milwaukee helped to place several unemployed Veterans in jobs.

If you need help with a service-connected disability, or do not have insurance, please know that we can direct you to the right people at the VA, to receive help (if you are qualified under the guidelines of the VA.) Need to talk to someone? Dryhootch in Milwaukee, located at, 1030 East Brady Street, 414-763-2785, is a gathering place for Veterans who need to talk in a relaxed setting. Remember, Dry, means Dry. This is an alcohol free setting. However, they do have good coffee.

The Post picnic will be held August 6th, at Valley View Park, 5051 S. Sunny Slope Rd, in New Berlin from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm. We hope to see many of you there. Bring the children along. We will need help with set-up, and takedown for the picnic. Please contact 2nd Vice Brian Duerr if you are able to help.

The Annual Post Corn Roast will be held August 13th, in the Post Parking Lot. If you are able to help with this event, please contact Post Manager Julie, and she will let you know what you can do to assist.

Have a safe summer. I hope to see you at the Picnic and Corn Roast.

Commander Wally Pfeiffer
262-784-2807
waltnlindapfeiffer@sbcglobal.net

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We stand 280 paid members for 2011. Unfortunately, this is down 13 members from 2010. Part of this is due to the economy, part of this is the loss of members to the Great Commander. We have lost 6 members since the end of March due to being called to the realm of the Great Commander of us all.

So, I have to ask that each and every member ask an eligible Veteran to join our post. If you need more information, or you want me or one of our other Officers to contact your friend or family member, to give him or her information, please let us know. Membership is key to keeping the American Legion and its programs alive. Membership is key to the power of the American Legion to put pressure on our National and State Legislators to keep in place, and when necessary, improve the benefits for Veterans. Without the large membership that the American Legion the GI Bill of Rights would never have passed in the Congress and been signed by the President. We have had members join us, who told us, that no one had ever asked them to join the Legion. So please ask someone. Hopefully they will say yes.

And now the 2012 membership drive begins. We have 3 paid for 2012 as of this mailing. We have been challenged by the State Membership Committee to turn in 35% of our 2012 membership goal by the State Convention. Notices will be mailed in June to all members. But, you do not have to wait for your notice to send in your 2012 dues. I will accept your dues at the June Membership meeting, and mail your cards to you as soon as I get them in my possession in late June or early July. Dues can be mailed to the Post to my attention. It would be terrific to be able to exceed the challenge from the state. So, ladies and gentlemen, please remit your 2012 dues as soon as possible. The sooner you pay, the sooner I can stop annoying you. Thanks

Dues for 2012 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.

1st Vice Commander Linda Pfeiffer
262-784-2807
walnindapfeiffer@sbcglobal.net

2ND VICE COMMANDER REPORT

As was stated by the Commander, I will need help at the Annual Picnic on August 6th. Please contact me, at the membership meeting in June, or by phone or email, as the picnic draws near, if you can assist me. Thank you.

I would like to thank Wally Pufahl and Darryl Wnuk for their help in preparing the lunch for the 4th District Spring Conference held at the Todd Post on May 18th. Everyone enjoyed the good food.

2nd Vice Commander Brian Duerr
414-541-7703
brianduerr@hotmail.com

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The June membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held at the Post, at 6:30 pm on June 7, 2011 in the Wimmer Room.

We would like to extend a large thank you to all the members who helped make this a good service year for the Post, Veterans and our local community, your help is appreciated by everyone.

The 2011 - 2012 year officially begins on July 1st, 2011. Your new adjutant, Tim Hansen, will keep you informed in the Tattler of what will be happening over the next year. Please note that 2012 dues are \$10.00 and we will begin accepting dues for 2012 at the June membership meeting. You may mail dues to the Todd Post to my attention, or contact me and we can meet at the Post. Cards will be sent to you as soon as we receive them from National.

We Stand together
for the good of all.

1st Vice Jim Thomas
414-640-5132
jthomas26@wi.rr.com



SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Hello! Happy Spring, if it ever gets here and stays! Hope you find this article interesting and everyone has a good spring and summer. 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!

Stress Study Says Force 'Under Strain'

May 19, 2011

Military.com - by Bryant Jordan

While more intense combat in Afghanistan in 2010 led to an overall dip in morale, military medical officials say that the latest joint mental health survey of combat Soldiers and Marines shows that troops fighting in Afghanistan are doing better than expected.

"Our teams were struck by the fact that they didn't see as much increase in mental health (issues) as expected based on the significant increase in combat exposure," said Col. Paul Bliese, team leader of Joint Mental Health Advisory Team 7 survey and director of the psychiatry and neuroscience division at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

Comparing results to past surveys the surveyed troops "did not appear to be having as much of a negative reaction to combat stress" as they'd expected, Bliese said.

Mental health surveys have been conducted in both Afghanistan and Iraq since 2005. The surveys are overseen by the Army's Office of the Surgeon General with support from the surgeons general of the Navy and Air Force and the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps.

The purpose is to assess the behavioral health of combat forces, look at the efficacy of delivering mental health care needs in theater and make recommendations for any improvements.

The latest survey was conducted in Afghanistan during July and August 2010 with

Soldiers and Marines in randomly selected combat units. The troops completed the surveys anonymously.

The survey states that the behavioral health picture among combat troops in Afghanistan in 2010 is complex -- there's no specific theme to describe troops' behavioral health status, it says.

But, the report states, it is "noteworthy that ratings of acute stress are higher in 2010 than in any other year except 2007 (a year with a small sample size), and that ratings of individual morale have significantly declined since 2009. The behavioral health status results indicate a force under strain." Analyses of the recent data shows dramatic increase in levels of combat -- significantly higher than levels in previous years, according to the report. And because the sampling among Soldiers was identical from 2009 to 2010, the results are very conclusive in showing that actual combat has intensified within the past year.

"The rates of exposure to key combat experiences reported in 2010 are not only elevated in terms of previous years of OEF (Afghanistan), but they are also elevated in terms of Soldiers' experiences in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)," the report states.

For instance, the 2006 survey found that nearly 60 % of Soldier respondents reported experiencing a member of their unit becoming a casualty. That figure was the highest reported rate collected in OIF, but is well below the over 70 % rate for Soldiers surveyed in Afghanistan for 2010. There is also a dramatic increase in the percentage of Soldiers who reported being "directly responsible" for killing an enemy combatant. In the 2006 survey, 15 % of surveyed Soldiers said they killed an enemy; last year the percentage was just over 48 %.

The combat exposure of Marines was also higher, even compared to intense combat in Iraq in 2006. There, 50 % of leathernecks experienced losing a buddy in combat; for Marines surveyed in Afghanistan last year, the number was 79 %.

The survey's findings show that, among Army Soldiers, acute stress rates are significantly higher

than they were in 2009 and 2005. Rates of combined psychological problem measure -- acute stress, depression or anxiety -- are also significantly higher than 2005, according to the report.

Not surprisingly, the survey revealed more Soldiers on follow-on deployments than in 2009.

"Soldiers on their third (or) fourth deployment report significantly more psychological problems and use of mental health medications than Soldiers on their first or second deployment," it states.

Among Marines, officials said, unit morale dipped from about 23 % calling it high or very high in 2006 to about 11 % last year. It said individual morale was not as significantly changed, though the report shows it dipped from about 28 % of those calling it high or very high to about 21 %.

As with the Soldiers surveyed, the percentage of Marines reporting psychological problems such as acute stress symptoms, depression or anxiety, is significantly higher in 2010 than in 2006 or 2007.

The evaluation team saw increases in acute stress symptoms and decreases in morale, Bliese said, "but our perception was that we would have expected a much larger increase in mental health symptoms and a much larger decrease (in morale) based on the incredibly high rates of combat exposure."

Service Officer Nick Berg
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Cell: 414-698-3181
nberg99@yahoo.com

MAY POPPY DAYS

Thank you to the members of the Post member family who help with Poppy Distribution on May 20th and 21st and memorial weekend. I will have a complete report for you at the Membership meeting in June.

3rd Vice Commander Jim Marinkovich
414-327-3420

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. Place these major cities in order from north to south.
a. Oklahoma City b. Wichita c. Omaha
2. What did Benjamin Banneker help design in 1791?
a. City of Philadelphia b. Washington D.C.
c. Plymouth, MA
3. Shots fired in Fort Sumter started the Civil War. Where was this Union Fort located?
a. South Carolina b. Virginia c. Missouri
4. Where did Roger Williams establish the 1st Settlement?
a. Maryland b. Plymouth
c. Rhode Island
5. At one time, how many Breweries were there in Wisconsin?
a. 350 b. 400 c. 450

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
July 5 - 7, 2011, in the Post Parking Lot
9:00 am - 7:00 pm**

Please continue to save your aluminum cans. We will have a collection for cans as stated above. Thank you. If you take off the Pop-Tops, please put them in a separate container, and it will be given to the Auxiliary for the Ronald McDonald House.

Also, the Auxiliary is continuing to collect Box Tops for Education for our local schools. There is a box in the side entrance to the Post to put your labels for education in. Please continue this during the summer months. If you need me to pick up your cans, please call.

Commander Wally Pfeiffer
262-784-2807

FUND RAISING

I know you all wait with bated breath for the newest ideas, but we are at a stand still. We were focused on the Memorial Day pancake breakfast. And THEN, join us on June 20, 2011 at 6:00 pm to help us formulate some new ways to replenish the Children and Youth fund.

Chairperson Gretchen Davies
414-731-8240
Gretchen.Davies@revenue.wi.gov
Co-Chairperson Linda Pfeiffer

FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

If you have questions related to what is happening within the Post Clubhouse, please address those questions to the House Committee members at the June membership meeting. And please remember that the bar is a social gathering place. Post business does not belong at the bar, please come and join your friends, and relax and enjoy yourselves.

Wally Pufahl, Doug Kueny, Brian Duerr

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Memorial Day has been celebrated since just after the Civil War. Long before it was called Memorial Day the graves of fallen soldiers were decorated. Let us continue to teach our descendants and community that our Country is kept strong because our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guard crews and all their families are willing to sacrifice all to keep us safe.

In addition to honoring the active duty, Veteran's and deceased military on Memorial Day; we hope you were able to attend the "flag disposal" ceremony at the Post on May 30th.

It is a "Grand Old Flag" that continues to wave over the home of the free & the brave!!!

Chaplain Gretchen Davis

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

The Todd Post hosted the annual 4th District Spring Conference on Wednesday, May 18th. Honored guests included Department Commander Robert Batty; State Vice Commanders Denise Rohan and Calvin Johnson Sr.; candidate for Department Commander Steve Dubois; candidate for Department Vice Commander Roy Helms; candidate for Department Assistant Chaplain Robert Herried; Department Auxiliary 2nd Vice President Diana Sirovina; Department Auxiliary Chaplain Laura Calteau; 4th District Auxiliary President Bonnie Jakubczyk; 5th District Commander Chuck Roloff and Milwaukee County Commander John Edelblute.

The bowling awards from the District Bowling Tournament were handed out, with the Todd Post S.A.L. taking 1st place. The Mighty 4th District presented Commander Batty with a check for \$1,000.00 to be used at Camp American Legion.

The Todd Post held its' annual Installation of Officers on Saturday, May 14th. Also, the Auxiliary and S.A.L. held their Installation of Officers. There was a fabulous meal and dancing afterwards. Special thanks to the 4th District Installation Team of Clare Goodfellow, Dave Pier, Bob Naffier and Tim Baranczyk.

Because this is being written well in advance of Memorial Day, I have no information on the status of the Pancake Breakfast or the Parade for the City of West Allis. I will give you that information in the September Tattler.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support of this Post, its' officers and programs and recreational activities. I look forward to seeing you at the picnic and the Corn Roast during the summer.

Please note that 4th District Junior Chairman Barbara Naffier from Post 416 is looking for donations and goods to give some quality feminine items made especially for women vets to complete a basket of "thanks" for them. For more information, call 414-520-0537. This will be an ongoing project sponsored by the Legion Family's and especially it's Jr Auxiliary members.

The State Pre-convention Caucus will be held at Van-Elmeren-Kolonka Post 27, 920 Monroe Ave, So. Milwaukee, on July 6th, starting at 7:00 pm.

State Convention will be held July 13 - 17th at the Raddison Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

Adjutant Mark Sandow
4th District, 4th Chair
414-418-0993 - Cell
414-545-0409 - Home
MarkSandow@wi.rr.com

ANNUAL REPORTING TO THE AMERICAN LEGION Volunteer Hours

What do you as an individual do to help in your local church, neighborhood, hospital or community? Do you take a person who needs help to the doctor, or grocery shopping? Do you serve at Church for ushering or teaching? Do you help someone with lawn work or snow shoveling? Why do we ask. Have you donated blood? If so, we would appreciate knowing how many pints you have donated. Hours from May 1, 2011, thru April 30, 2012 are reportable. Please keep a detailed list of what you do for the Community, Legion, neighbors, helping at a senior center, etc. You may bring your list to any membership meeting, or email to Adjutant Mark Sandow on a monthly basis.

Why do we want this? What we, as a Legion, report to Congress, shows them just how important the Legion is, and what we do for our Nation. We served in the military, now we continue to service in our private lives. These hours give the American Legion the power to ask Congress for funding for Veterans Programs on the Local, State and National Levels.

Thank you for serving in the past, present and future.

Adjutant Mark Sandow

AUXILIARY NEWS

Greetings American Legion Family. We have just had the Installation of Officers for all our groups for 2011 - 2012. Please use this time to regroup and renew ourselves for the tasks at hand. Our first and foremost aim is to help our veterans, active duty military and their families. I hope that we can all join forces to work together to take the "I" out of the equation and replace it with "WE". Together we can work miracles for our veteran programs and even for our community. We are all a part of the whole and it takes all of us together to accomplish this. We have a great group of people at our Post and let us build on all of the good things that we all have to offer. Listen to one another and compromise, as all ideas presented are for the good of the common cause.

President Sue Middlestead will be a great asset to our Legion Family. She has already proven that she is willing to work together to make us a really awesome "Legion Family".

Thank you for all your support in the past and future.

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

AMERICAN LEGION BAND CONCERT Oelschaeger-Dallman Post 434 9327 S. Shepard Ave., Oak Creek

The American Legion Band will put on a free concert, June 26, 2011 at 6:00 pm. It will last about 60 - 90 minutes. It will be outside in the park if the weather is ok but if the weather is in question it will be in the lower Legion hall. The concert will be a salute to The Armed Forces.

Picnic food and beverages will be available for a small fee. Donations will be accepted.



**POPPY DISTRIBUTION AT MILLER PARK
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011**

Please note, that the Legion Family will be distributing Poppies at Miller Park on August 14, 2011 prior to the 1:10 Brewers Game.

Lots of help is needed. So, if you are able to help, please contact Jim Marinkovich at the June meeting, or at any time prior to the game. The more people that we have to distribute poppies, the more funds that will be available for the Veterans of our local community. We have so many Veterans and Veterans Programs that are in need of help, and this is our only way of raising funds. If you cannot stand, you may sit in a wheelchair, (or bring a chair to sit on)

As we reported in the May issue of the Tattler, we distributed monies to a number of places that help Veterans in the last several months. This is only for a few hours, and if we carpool, (and get parking permits in advance) we can minimize the expense of parking. We can use the help from our "younger" members of the Post 537 family, who would be able to roam the parking lot, and catch the people who are tailgating for a donation. Please think about this and let us know if you are able to volunteer for a few hours on August 14th.

Harv's Quik Quiz Answers

1. Order - North To South
c. Omaha NE; b. Wichita, KS;
a. Oklahoma City, OK
2. b. Washington D.C. (Note) Bannaker was an African American mathematician and astronomer. He also published a series of Almanacs.
3. a. South Carolina - at the entrance to the Harbor or Charleston.
4. c. Rhode Island - in 1636
5. b. 400. Milwaukee had 100 of the Breweries.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR
VETERANS WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR
BENEFITS FROM THE VETERANS
ADMINISTRATION**

We are often asked for information about applying for VA Benefits. This includes medical benefits, education benefits, applications for living at Union Grove or King for short or long term care. Any questions that you have regarding Veterans benefits can be answered by the staff at these locations. If you live in another county please contact us for information for that County Service Officer.

Milwaukee County Service Officer
Jim Duff, Acting CVSO
VA Hospital Grounds, Bldg. 4
5000 W. National Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53295-0002
(414) 382-1753 FAX (414) 382-1708
Email: jduff@milwcnty.com

Waukesha Service Officer
Thomas Ludka
Human Services Center
500 Riverview Ave., Rm. G138
Waukesha, WI 53188-3680
(262) 548-7732 FAX (262) 896-8588
Email: tludka@waukeshacounty.gov

INFORMATION ON THE USS LARGARTO

If you are interested in updated information and pictures on the U. S. S. LARGARTO, which was the submarine, that Harold Todd Jr., was on when it perished, please go out online to:
<http://thaiwreckdiver.com/lagarto.htm>.

I have gotten several email's with inquiries and several with information on the LARGARTO.

We have a DVD on the finding of the LARGARTO, if someone wishes to borrow it and watch it at home.

Editor Linda Pfeiffer

WWII VETERANS VIDEO

Please view

Access to the internet? Hopefully you will receive this Tattler prior to Memorial Day, if not, this is still worth viewing.

<http://media.causes.com/1060527?s=cause>

This story is incredible. Send this touching two-minute video about World War II veterans to FIVE friends and family to remind them that every day alive in this great, free country is truly a bonus. Let's get 50,000 views for the video by Memorial Day (May 30th) to show these living heroes, one last time, just how grateful we are for their unbelievable sacrifice. The video is a trailer to a documentary that will come out in November. The more we can show interest in the trailer (i.e. views), the more Americans will get to see the film. Time is running out: 1,000 WWII vets die every day. We are free today because of these men and women. The least we can do is watch a web video and send it to five people. Let's get this mission done!

If you are a WWII Veteran and want to go on the Honor Flight, or have a WWII Veteran who is family member, or friend, please apply to take this worth while, heartfelt trip to Washington D.C. information on the honor flight can be found at: <http://starsandstripeshonorflight.org/> applications can be downloaded online at: http://starsandstripeshonorflight.org/pdf/Veteran_Application.pdf.

If you do not have internet access and wish to receive an application, please contact a Post Officer and we will be sure to get one to you.

A LIVING HISTORY OF AMERICAN WARS

Highlands at Wildwood Lake Sr Apartments

N77 W 17700 Lake Park Dr

Menomonee Falls, WI

Saturday June 11 - 2011

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Free admission - donations accepted for the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight



UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

August 6, 2011 - POST PICNIC
Valley View Park - Picnic Area 2
just south of Beloit Rd on Sunnyslope Rd
New Berlin, WI

August 13, 2011 - POST CORN ROAST
Post Parking Lot



TAPS

William G Waara
April 30, 2011
Navy - WWII

Chester A Zurawik
April 30, 2011
Army - WWII

Albert R Castelli
May 3, 2011
Army - WWII



May they rest in peace in the Arms of the Great Commander.

Our sympathy is extended to their families.