



The Todd Tattler



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Todd Post Website: www.toddpost537.org



ANNUAL POST SMOKER

(Card Party)

The Annual Post Smoker will be held Friday March 5, 2010 from 7:00 pm until 1:00 am. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Doors open at 6:00 pm. If you play cards, bring a friend or two or three and come and enjoy yourself for a fun evening. Lunch will be served at 10:30pm. There will be lots of raffles. Many of you have already obtained Sweepstakes Tickets, and we thank you for doing so. If you know of someone who needs or wants tickets, please call and we will be sure to get them to you or your friend quickly. Top sweepstakes prize is \$500.00. With tickets at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, you have a good chance of winning a cash prize or any one of several other prizes available that evening.

There will be a few separate raffles that evening. A Foosball Table will be raffled off. This was donated by Progressive Image, Inc., of New Berlin. We also have an exercise machine donated by a Post Member. There will be several afghans, a double beach chair, and more.

This is always a fun evening for all those who attend. Join us. If you don't play cards, please come and help in the kitchen, or hall.

1st COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND EVENT

What does the Todd Post do for the Community? We are very involved with Children and Youth Programs, and helping fellow Veterans, with donations to Camp American Legion, gift baskets as needed, and with the S.A.L and their "Underwear for Veterans" drive. But we have been unable to help people in the community who are in need of temporary assistance. Reason: we simply do not have the funds to do this. So, we are trying to change this. Please come and join us, tell your friends, co-workers, family and neighbors, bring along everyone you can think of, and spend some time up at the Legion Post on March 13th.

We will have three bands starting at noon with Ed Haase, and ending in the evening with Knight Train, 3rd band to be announced. There will be raffles throughout the day, with a spa basket and an Easter basket, put together by our Ladies Auxiliary, and many other great items. We hope to have a bake sale, and food will be available at a nominal price. How much we are able to help people who are in need in our community, will depend on how much we are able to raise at the worthwhile event. Tickets for a game, donated by Red's Novelty, valued at \$600 are available at the Bar or from a Post Officer.

COMMANDERS CORNER

March is a very busy month at the post. We start out with the annual Post Smoker on Friday, March 5th. Funds raised by the smoker are used to support various programs we sponsor. They also help keep our membership dues down.

Our Membership meeting will be held on Sunday, March 7th meeting at 12:00 pm. This meeting is held once a year during the day in hopes that members who work nights or are unable to get out at night may attend. This is the Annual Initiation of new members, or members who have never been initiated. We also hope to initiate many of our S.A.L members who have not participated in this ceremony. We will be awarding continuous years stars and certificates to members with 5, 10, 15, etc year membership in the American Legion.

March 13th is the First Community Outreach Fund Raising Event, starting at 12:00 pm. Please try and attend this event. We are having several bands and raffles, food will be available at a nominal price.. The money raised for this event will go towards helping others in need.

As usual, if you have any questions feel free to contact me or any other officer of the post.

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee has received three bids for remodeling of the kitchen. The decision will be made shortly on which one will be accepted. This work will be performed after the smoker so as not to disrupt the event.

We are pleased to announce that Rob Fyfe has agreed to be our leader for the Post GEEK squad. Rob had the training and knowledge to operate the outside message board, the security system, and the Post web-site.

A new soda system is being installed in the hall to better serve soda products, so we no longer will have to haul the 2-litre bottles up and down the basement stairs. If there are issues about the building please contact one of the committee members. We can non rectify problems if they are not brought to our attention.

We hope to see everyone in the coming days as there will a number of events being held at the Post.

Dave Wischer, Committee Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As I write this article, I want to thank the 287 members who have paid their dues for 2010. This brings us to 89.4% of our membership paid. Our goal is 321 (based on our ending membership numbers on June 30, 2009) We need 35 more members to reach this goal, so please be sure to send in your \$35.00 dues ASAP. Because we lost many of our members to the Arms of the Great Commander during the 2009 year, we need to recruit new members as well. If you know someone who is eligible to join the Legion, please invite them to attend one of our meetings and hopefully they will fill out an application and join. We also need to recruit those men and women who have served in the current conflict period. If you know of an Active Duty member who would like to be part of our Post, please ask him or her to join the Legion.

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

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. Where did Cesar Chavez speak out on behalf of poor migrant workers?
 - a. Alabama
 - b. Vermont
 - c. California
2. Name the only State that shares a border with Maine.
 - a. New York
 - b. New Hampshire
 - c. Vermont
3. Which President reported seeing a U.F.O.?
 - a. Jimmy Carter
 - b. Bill Clinton
 - c. Dwight D Eisenhower
4. Which crop became the most important crop in the Southern States?
 - a. Tobacco
 - b. Cotton
 - c. Wheat
5. What did George Washington Carver discover important new uses for?
 - a. Peanuts
 - b. Apples
 - c. Potatoes

CHAPLAIN'S NOTE

Greetings to all of you. I intended to devote this space to an article about the Four Immortal Chaplain, I went so far as to press my brother, who is temporarily an invalid, into doing computer research for me. But then the Auxiliary newsletter had a wonderful article that would dim anything I write so, if you haven't already seen their newsletter you can find it by accessing our web site: www.toddpost537.org and click the link to Post 537 Auxiliary. It is definitely worth reading the February article.

Currently Congressional Bill HR 85 would create a national recognition day of the Four Immortal Chaplains. If you have the time,

contact your local legislative representative to encourage their favorable vote.

In addition to the information about the Chaplains, I learned that the Coast Guard credits Lt. Robert Prause, whose "cold suits & tethered recovery men" saved many of the lives that night, as the creator of the original "rescue swimmer system". Some very interesting information is available out on Legion & Coast Guard websites!

I will close, wishing you all a peaceful transition into Spring. Hope to see many of you at the upcoming March 7th afternoon meeting.

Chaplain Gretchen Davies
414-227-4301

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Hello. Here is some additional info for our Navy Vets from the Vietnam conflict, concerning Agent Orange and other herbicide exposure. If you were on any of these vessels, you should qualify for benefits.

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!

VA Lists Navy Ships that Qualify for Presumptive Agent Orange Exposure
1/26/10 – The Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation and Pension Service issued a list of naval vessels it has verified conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and delta areas of Vietnam. The list also identifies certain vessel types that operated primarily on the inland waterways. If a veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames

specified, then exposure to herbicide agents (e.g., Agent Orange) can be presumed. The list includes all vessels of Inshore Fire Support (IFS) Division 93; all vessels with the designation LST, LCVP, PCF ("Swift Boats"), and PBR during their entire Vietnam tour. Several other vessels and specific time frames of operations are included in this list.

Policy (211) Information on Vietnam Naval Operations Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing regional offices with information to assist with development in Haas related disability claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy Veterans. To date, we have received verification from various sources showing that a number of offshore "blue water" naval vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and delta areas of Vietnam. We have also identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. The ships and dates of inland waterway service are listed below. If a Veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development. All vessels of Inshore Fire Support [IFS] Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour:

USS Carronade (IFS 1); USS Clarion River (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship, Medium, Rocket]; USS Francis River (LSMR 525); USS White River (LSMR 536)

All vessels with the designation LST [Landing Ship, Tank] during their entire tour [WWII ships converted to transport supplies on rivers and serve as barracks for brown water Mobile Riverine Forces]

All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing

Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] during their entire tour
All vessels with the designation PCF [Patrol Craft, Fast] during their entire tour
[Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy interdiction on close coastal waters]

All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland waterways and featured in the Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now"]

USS Ingersoll (DD-652) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, October 24-25, 1965]; USS Mansfield (DD-728) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River August 8-19, 1967 and December 21-24, 1968]; USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849) [Destroyer] [Operated on coastal inlet north of Da Nang, June 2-5, 1966, protecting Marines holding a bridge]; USS Basilone (DD-824) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, May 24-25, 1966]; USS Hamner (DD-718) [Destroyer] [Operated on Song Lon Tao and Long Song Tao Rivers, August 15-September 1, 1966] USS Conway (DD-507) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, early August 1966]: USS Fiske (DD-842) [Destroyer] [Operated on Mekong River, June 16-21, 1966]: USS Black (DD-666) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, July 13-19, 1966]: USS Providence (CLG-6) [Cruiser, Light, Guided Missile] [Operated on Saigon River 3 days during January 1964]: USS Mahan (DLG-11) [Guided Missile Frigate] [Operated on Saigon River October 24-28, 1964]: USS Okanogan (APA-220) [Attack Transport] [Operated on Saigon River July 22-23, 29-30, 1968 and August 5-6, 1968]: USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores Ship] [Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and Cam Rahn Bay, April 22-25, 1968]

Service Officer Nick Berg
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Cell: 414-698-3181

CHILDREN - YOUTH - VETERANS and COMMUNITY FUND RAISERS

Hello everyone, I'll make this brief and get right to the point, we want your money. Seriously. the Post needs money and donations to help make the two upcoming events a success. Spend your money purchasing Sweepstakes tickets for the Smoker, and who knows. you may win some back. You can win up to \$500.00 on the main ticket if purchased. We also need donations of all sorts to insure that the committee has enough items to raffle during the Smoker.

Secondly, one short week after the Smoker the Post will be kicking off it's new **Community Outreach Fund**. This fund will help assist those persons in our local community due to illness, accidents, or other issues.. This fund is not intended to pay for someone's entire needs but to assist them with a helping hand. So, please try to make it over to the Post on Saturday, March 13th. This is a joint event, with the Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, and Post Bar Patrons. You can bear witness to all the work that has gone into starting this fund. Once you are there you may want to volunteer a few hours assisting in the kitchen, selling raffles, or just sitting down and enjoying the music, food, and the many raffles taking place. I know I keep asking everyone to spend their hard earned money but with these two events you get back so much more if you just participate Thanks again form the Fundraising Committee.

Fund Raising Chairperson Dave Wischer.

POST BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Power Program

Our Legion Post's involvement in the POWER program continues! 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, Gretchen and I are required to give a short presentation at every Legion Meeting - each on a variety of topics.

The topics that will be presented at the next meeting will be "Stress Management" & "The DASH Diet". Here's a brief explanation of the topics to be presented:

Stress Management: Stress is a fact of life. It affects everyone. Some stress is actually helpful because it can spur you to meet life's challenges. Without some form of stress, life would be boring! However, too much stress of any kind can cause problems. It can affect your mental and physical health and hurt relationships with friends and family. While it is a myth that people who have high blood pressure are more nervous or tense than others, leaning how to cope with stress can help EVERYONE keep their blood pressure under control. At our next Post meeting, Gretchen and I will talk about some of the warning signs of too much stress and learn some simple relaxation techniques that you can use anytime, anywhere.

The DASH Diet: Many of the POWER Program topics Gretchen and I have covered talk about diet. This is because what you eat can affect your blood pressure. Research shows that high blood pressure can be prevented – and lowered – by following the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) eating plan. The DASH eating plan is rich in fruits, vegetables, fat-free or low-fat milk products, whole grains, fish, poultry, beans, seeds and nuts. Because of this, it is considered to be low in sodium, refined sugars and saturated fats, which makes it good for other considerations as well! At our next Post meeting, Gretchen and I will provide some valuable information about getting started and staying on the DASH diet.

Again, thanks to your continued participation and support in the POWER program, our Post was listed in 1st place (Central Region) for 1st and 2nd Qtr of 2009!! It's our sincere hope that we can continue this distinction for the duration of the POWER program.

Please remember to send in the forms you received at the February meeting for the "Health Buddies" program. The Post that submits the most forms will receive a monetary award from the V.A. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

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

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

I hope everyone is doing well as we get through the last six weeks of winter. Spring will be here before you know it. My wife Sue and I attended the Mid-Winter Conference with other members of the Post in January. I attended a session on Public Relations, spoke with 3rd District Commander Denise Rohan regarding getting a Blood Drive set up for the National Convention here in Milwaukee in August. I also went to a PR preview of a new TV program coming to Public TV in June that showcases the American Legion is a very positive light. On Sunday, we heard National Commander Clarence Hill speak at the General Session. It was a very good time and we learned a lot.

Sue and I attended Four Chaplains Sunday services at the VA on February 7th. Every year the 5th district hosts this program and each year it is as good if not better than before. If you ever have a chance to attend, please do so. It is a very moving service.

The "Dry Hootch" project has a new building. It is on the East side at 1030 E. Brady Street next to Gloriosos. "Dry Hootch" is a

program that caters to veterans with PTSD and drug and alcohol problems who may not want to deal directly with the VA. It is in a relaxed "coffee-house" type of setting where vets may work with qualified counselors to overcome their problems. This is the first of its kind and has drawn interest from other parts of the State and from the Chicago area.

I received some great news the other day. WMIL-FM 106.1 and the MOO CREW will be broadcasting live for the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast at the Post. It's always a pleasure to have them at the Post. More info as it becomes available.

The next 4th District meeting will be held at the Todd Post sponsored by Police Post 415 on Wednesday, March 17th, at 7:30 pm. Thanks for all your support.

Mark Sandow
Post Historian and 4th District Vice-Commander
414-545 0409- Home

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The March membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held in Cramer Hall at 6:30 pm on March 2, 2009. All S.A.L. members who wish to be initiated on March 7th at the Post Membership meeting must notify Steve Hendren no later than March 2.

S.A.L. Commander Danny Key
414-541-8386

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

March 16: 6:00 pm - Cramer Hall
Joint Poppy meeting for Miller Park

March 16: following the Executive Bd Meeting
and Auxiliary Meeting - Cramer Hall
Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast Meeting

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day	2 S.A.L Meeting Vietnam War Began 1965	3 Star Spangled Banner approved as National Anthem 1931	4	5 Annual Post Smoker	6
7 Blood Pressure Screening Membership Mtg	8	9 House Committee Meeting	10	11	12 Girl Scouts of America Founded 1912	13 COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND RAISING EVENT
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins	15	16 Poppy Meeting Auxiliary Meeting Ex Bd Meeting Pancake Breakfast Meeting	17 St Patricks Day 4th District Meeting Todd Post	18	19 Operation Iraqi Freedom Began 2003	20 1st Day of Spring
21	22	23	24 Milw Cty Council Meeting - Post 120	25	26	27 Last Man's Club Luncheon
28 Palm Sunday	29 Passover Begins	30	31			

are proud of our membership, and know that we honor our special veteran's service by becoming involved in this fine organization.

Our Legion Family is involved in some pretty exciting events in the coming future. Hopefully, you will take part in as many as you can. Upcoming is the Community Outreach Fundraiser on March 13th and the distribution of poppies at Miller Park on May 14th. Please contribute your time to help make these "Family" events successful and profitable. Please continue to drop off Box Tops for Education at the Post for our Local Youth.

As always please contact me with any concerns or suggestions.

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

MESSAGE FROM A MEMBER

I am a newer member of Post 537. I am impressed with the amount of work the Post and it's associated groups do for Veterans for the Milwaukee Community. This includes installing wheelchair ramps, clothes for Vet's at the VA; medical equipment and clothes dryers, picked and delivered to Camp American Legion; and this only covers a few things the Post has done.

Post 537 has received the opportunity to distribute Poppies at Miller Park this year on May 14th, starting at 5:30 pm. This gives the Post a chance to have a large market for Poppy distribution and donations. This opportunity may not happen again. These donations are used only for Veterans.

The Post has a core group of people that do a good job taking care of Post matters. This time the core group will NOT have enough manpower to do the job distribution Poppies at Miller Park. Miller Park is a big place and we need many people to make the most of his opportunity. In Short: we need to get our forces up to strength. (one step forward - volunteers). Please volunteer for a few short hours. Call Jim Marinkovich at 414-327-3420, or see him at the Post.

Jim Linneman

March 2

6:30 pm - S.A.L Meeting - Cramer Hall

March 5

7:00 pm - 1:00 am - Annual Post Smoker
(card Party) Cramer Hall

March 7

11:30 am - Post Blood Pressure Screening
12:00 noon - Post membership Meeting
Initiation and Year Awards - Cramer Hall

March 9 6:30 pm - House Committee Meeting

March 13 12:00 noon - midnight - 1st Community Fund Raiser Event - Cramer Hall

March 16

6:00 pm - Miller Park Poppy Meeting
7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting
7:00 pm - Executive Board Meeting
after meetings - Pancake Breakfast Meeting

March 17 ST PATRICKS DAY

7:30pm - 4th District Meeting - Todd Post

March 24 7:30 pm - Milw Cty Council Meeting - Tanner-Paull Post 120

March 27 12:00 noon - Last Man's Club Luncheon

AUXILIARY NEWS

Legionnaires, are your wives members of the Auxiliary? What about your daughters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, sisters and mothers? If they aren't, please ask them to join the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world. There are benefits and discounts available to them as Auxiliary members. We who are members

H.A. Todd Jr. Post 537
9159 W. Beloit Rd
Milwaukee, Wi 53227

2006-2007 Past State Commander
Charles Cooney

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POPPY DAYS

American Legion Poppy Days are May 14 and 15, 2010. We have been given the privilege of distributing Poppies at Miller Park on May 14, 2010 beginning at 5:30 (when the gates open) until 7:10 which is the start of the game.

We will need lots of help from the Legion family. Remember that the Legion Family includes the Post, Auxiliary, and the Sons of the Legion. All of us together can help to raise funds for the 2010 Poppy Days. The more funds we raise, the more funds we have to help Veteran with. Poppy Funds can only be used for Veterans. Please let Jim Marinkovich know if you can help.

This could become a fun evening for those who would like to also attend the game. If interested please advise Jim at the membership meeting as well, so that we can block off a group of tickets. We need to know who would like to attend the game, no later than the April Membership meeting. If we have a large group, our name will be displayed on the Miller Park Board. This is also a "roll-back" night, with the Brewers in uniforms from - way back when - and bobble heads being given out. Join the fun, and if it is cold, they will close the roof.

Harv's Quik Quiz Answers

1. c. California - as President of the United Farm Workers, he took on the powerful Grape Industry
2. b. New Hampshire
3. a. Jimmy Carter
4. b. Cotton - it was so important that it came to be known at "King Cotton".
5. a. Peanuts - he found 300 products that could be made from them, including a milk substitute.

TAPS



Florian J
Malkowski

WWII - Navy



We extend our sympathy to their families.
May they rest in Peace in the
Arms of the Great Commander of us all.