



The Todd Tattler

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Monthly Publication

Commander Brian Duerr 414-541-7703

Service Officer Nick Berg 414-698-3181

Todd Post Website: www.toddpost537.org



COMMANDERS CORNER

I would like to thank our members who this past year served as Post Officers and served as various Committee members. Without your help, we would not have accomplished the work that was done. Again, A BIG THANK YOU. I would now like to welcome all the newly elected Post Officers and Committee members. Thank you for attending last months membership meeting and accepting the nomination for your elected position. With your help I believe the Post can accomplish many great things this coming year in support of our Veterans and community.

Our next membership meeting is May 4th at 7:30 pm. We will be installing the newly elected Post Officers for 2010 - 2011. The installation will be conducted by State Vice Commander Marv Brozinski and members of the 4th District. Please attend to show your support for Your new Officers.

On Saturday, May 8th, the Legion will be having our spring dance from 8 pm to midnight. Please try and attend. Ed Haase will be playing. The cost is \$8.00 which includes beer, soda and popcorn. We will also have a raffle.

A reminder that American Legion Poppy Days are May 14th and 15th. We still need help

distributing Poppies on these days. Especially on May 14th, when we will be distributing poppies at Miller Park.

We also still have available tickets for the Brewer game on May 14th. The tickets are \$20.00 a piece. The seats are for the Loge Bleacher area. The Brewers play the Philadelphia Phillies. If anyone is interested in tickets, the final day to have your money to me is May 4th, at the membership meeting.

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

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 Veterans. Poppy Funds can only be used for Veterans. Please let Jim Marinkovich know, at the May Membership meeting, if you can help.

2010 - 2011 POST OFFICERS

Commander Brian Duerr
1st Vice Commander Linda Pfeiffer
2nd Vice Commander Kevin Barry
3rd Vice Commander Jim Marinkovich
Adjutant Wanda Fremut
Finance Officer Wally Pufahl
Chaplain George Christopherson
Parliamentarian Chuck Cooney
Historian Mark Sandow
Sgt at arms: Ron Kaun & Wally Pfeiffer
Service Officer Nick Berg
Legislative Committee: Gretchen Davies & Dick McClain
Executive Committee:
Robert Fyfe, Gully Murphy & Jim Linneman
House Committee (3 year term): Doug Kueny
4th District Delegates: Brian Duerr, Linda Pfeiffer and
Ron Kaun
Convention Delegates: Brian Duerr, Mark Sandow, Wanda
Fremut & Ron Kaun. Alternates: Linda Pfeiffer,
George Christopherson & Gretchen Davies.
Appointments: Fund Raising Committee:
Chairperson Gretchen Davies,
Co-Chairperson Linda Pfeiffer
County Council Delegates: Brian Duerr, Chuck Cooney,
Linda Pfeiffer & Ron Kaun

Any members wishing to attend 4th District Meetings, or County Council Meetings are welcome to do so. There is a lot of information given out at these meetings.

Any member wanting to serve on the fund Raising Committee, please attend the Meeting on May 17th in Cramer Hall at 7:00 pm. This includes members of the Auxiliary and the S.A.L Squadron.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We need you as members to support the important programs of the American Legion. We are currently at 292 paid members and to reach 100% we need 321. If your dues are not paid for 2010, please contact me if you have questions.

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

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Hello! Greetings and welcome to May and warmer weather. I know that I have had a lot of discussions about Agent Orange benefits; however I promised everyone that when I found out new info I would pass it along. Apparently, these new benefits will begin in May. The article below explains it in more detail. I get these articles from an organization called NAUS which stands for National Association for Uniformed Services, "The service member's voice in government." If you want to check them out online the address is <http://naus.org>.

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!

New Agent Orange Benefits - 3/31/10 - The VA published its proposed new Agent Orange benefits regulations on 3/25. NAUS expects about a 20% increase in VA benefits awards for those who served in Vietnam and were exposed to Agent Orange with presumed service connected disabilities (an estimated 185,000 additional veterans/survivors). Three additional conditions - Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease and B-cell leukemias - have been added to the list of illnesses presumed to have been caused by exposure to Agent Orange. The VA had already ruled the following conditions were "presumptive" regarding exposure to Agent Orange: Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy; Chloracne; Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia; Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2); Hodgkin's Disease; Multiple Myeloma; Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; Porphyria Cutanea Tarda; Prostate Cancer; Respiratory Cancers, and Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondro-sarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or

Mesothelioma). This means that veterans who suffer from one of these diseases are entitled to service-connected disability compensation from the VA as long as they stepped foot on land in Vietnam during active duty at any time between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. It does not matter when the condition or disease first appeared. The VA will apparently accept letters from family physicians supporting claims for the new Agent Orange related conditions. Death benefits (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)) are also being expanded, and will be available to qualifying surviving family members of Vietnam veterans who have died, or who die in the future, from one of the 3 new presumptive diseases. Additionally, many Vietnam vets with retiree status may also be eligible for tax exempt Combat Related Special Compensation of up to \$3,000 monthly, in the case of 100% agent Orange disability including retroactive back pay. The VA will review its records and identify all Vietnam veterans and survivors of Vietnam veterans who filed a compensation claim in the past for one of the 3 new presumptive conditions. Each of these prior claims will be reevaluated under the VA's new rules. An estimated 86,000 claims previously denied by the VA before 1985 will be revisited.

What You Should Do Now ... The VA will not begin to pay benefits for any of the new conditions until the new Agent Orange regulations are finalized, which NAUS expects in May. And the claims review process usually takes months before benefits are approved and start. But if you are a Vietnam veteran who suffers from one of these diseases or conditions, or a qualifying surviving family member of a Vietnam veteran who died from one of them, NAUS advises you to take action now. If you are a Vietnam veteran who suffers (or a survivor of a veteran who died) from one of the 3 new presumptive conditions and you have not previously filed a VA disability or death compensation claim, you should file a VA claim

for service-connected disability compensation (or DIC) for the disease immediately. Any VA benefits you are found eligible for will be paid retroactive to the date the VA first received your claim. This means that for every month you delay in filing your claim, you will not be entitled to VA compensation for that month.

If you already filed a VA disability or death compensation claim for one of these new presumptive conditions, you should file another claim with the VA for service-connected disability compensation (or DIC) for the disease/condition. This will help protect you from the possibility that the VA will interpret your previous claim as a pension claim instead of a compensation claim, or as being for a disease other than one of the three new diseases.

Both the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Health Administration expect to be deluged by an increase in new claims. NAUS encourages its members and potential new members to contact the NAUS staff, assisted by NAUS board member Win Reither, Col, USAF (Ret), to stay tuned for updates, as well as progress reports of the VA claims handling.

Service Officer Nick Berg
Home: 414-329-8184
nberg99@yahoo.com
Cell: 414-698-3181

BASEBALL GAME AT MILLER PARK FOLLOWING POPPY DISTRIBUTION

The people attending will be sitting together in the Bleachers Section 204. Tickets are. \$20.00 per person. Tickets must be purchased by May 4th. Please see Brian Duerr, or me at the Post Meeting for Tickets. All Post, Auxiliary, and S.A.L are invited. We have around 20 tickets left.

Jim Marinkovich
414-327-3420

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. Does the Mojave Desert cover 25,000 square miles of?
a. Colorado
b. Oklahoma
c. California
2. Will you find North American's highest waterfall in?
a. Ohio
b. California
c. New York
3. Are the Senators in Washington elected for terms of ?
a. six years
b. two years
c. four years
4. Illinois is known as "The Land of Lincoln". Which U.S. President was born in Illinois?
a. Ronald Reagan
b. Abe Lincoln
c. Jimmy Carter
5. What was not possible to do in 1910?
a. drive a car
b. fly in an airplane
c. watch color television

CHAPLAIN'S NOTE

Greetings to all. I wish each of you a wonderful spring no matter where you are or how you spend it. I ask that you remember in prayers, and possibly with visits, all of our home bound members. Get out and enjoy the weather during the upcoming Poppy Distribution Days. Give an hour, give the day, give what time you are able remember the history & those who gave their lives.

Chaplain Gretchen Davies
414-227-4301

VETERANS INFORMATION

Are you planning on retiring soon?

When you go to apply for Social Security be sure to take a copy of your military discharge

papers with you. Most Social Security Agents will not ask you if you were in the military. Your service connected work time counts towards your Social Security Benefit. This is important, and we have been told you need to do this at the time you apply for Social Security. You may not be able to get the additional benefit you are entitled to at a later date.

Veterans between 55 and 65

Did you graduate from High School?

April 30, 2010

An Act to amend 120.13 (37) (a) 1. of the statutes; relating to: granting high school diplomas to certain veterans with service –connected disabilities.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau Under current law, a school board may award a high school diploma to a person who attended high school in that school district or attended high school in the state and resides in the school district if the person is 65 years or older, left high school to join the U.S. armed forces during a war, and served on active duty under honorable conditions.

This bill authorizes a school board to award a high school diploma to a person who is 55 years or older if that person has a service–connected disability and, with the exception of age, meets the above conditions.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows: SECTION 1. 120.13 (37) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read: 120.13 (37) (a) 1. Is at least 65 years old, or is at least 55 years old and has a service–connected disability. This was signed by Governor Doyle on 4/21/2010.

HOW TO SHOW RESPECT FOR OUR AMERICAN FLAG

HOW TO SALUTE THE FLAG

- * Those in uniform should use a military salute.
- * All Veterans with hats (other than a Legion Cap) should remove their hat, and may salute the flag. (baseball caps must be removed before saluting the flag.) If you chose you may remove your hat and place your right hand over your heart.

WHEN SHOULD YOU SALUTE THE FLAG

- * When it passes by in a parade.
- * At the ceremonial raising or lowering of the Flag.
- * During the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

The basement foundation repair is progressing very nice. The plan is to have the repairs finished by May 7th. If you have questions on the repairs, please ask your questions at the membership meeting in May.

The House Committee should be signing the contracts for the Post Kitchen remodeling the week of April 26th. Again, please ask questions at the membership meeting, if you have any.

The House Committee thanks Chuck Cooney, Wally Pfeiffer and Mark Pfeiffer (Mark helped with painting), for the work that they have done in the Post Basement during the ongoing repairs. Their help has saved the Post a lot of time and money.

The House Committee also extends a HUGE thank you to the members of the S.A.L. who helped with the cleanup of Post Property, and the property behind the fence on the east side of the Post parking lot. Their help made everything look much better.

Wally Pufahl
House Committee Person

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. We will not have a presentation at the meeting in May. However, Gretchen and I will be there to take your blood pressure, answer questions, and let you step on the scale (no we do not look). Your health is important, and we are here to help guide you to maintain that good health.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

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

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

A fund raising committee meeting was held with representatives from "The Legion Family in attendance" on April 19th. Upcoming projects were discussed: Poppy Days (funds used for Veterans); Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast (funds to be used for Camp American Legion needs); Post Corn Roast (funds are used for improvements and maintenance of the Post Bar - for everyone's comfort); Oktoberfest (a time to thank the patrons of the bar for supporting us.) Proceeds are used for the bar); and last but not least, the next Post Smoker to be held in March 2011. The Children & Youth \$25.00 raffle will be postponed until 2011, due to the current economic conditions.

The next meeting will be held May 17th in the Post Hall. We are looking for ideas from members on possible ways to raise funds for Children and Youth, and for the Outreach Program. Ideas suggested were: another

pancake breakfast, spaghetti dinner, or a taco dinner. We are looking for your help, members. What ideas do you have that would bring in members, families, and the community that would benefit the programs the Post is involved in. Please email Commander Duerr or 1st Vice Linda Pfeiffer, or call Gretchen Davies with ideas. Better yet, come to the May membership meeting and let one of us know what your ideas are. Supporting the Children & Youth, Veterans, and the Community is a big part of the American Legion and the Todd Post. We value all ideas. Help is needed with all Fund Raisers. The more people we have to help, the less work falls on the shoulders of all of us.

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, in advance, for your participation in Poppy Days May 14th and 15th. This year we have both the distribution at Miller Park on Friday and at selected spots on Friday and Saturday. It is quite an endeavor. Don't forget there are tickets available for the game on Friday night. See Commander Brian if you want to go.

The American Legion will sponsor a 2-day blood drive during LZ Lambeau, at the old Packer Hall of Fame, which is near the corner of Oneida and Lombardi Avenues across the street from the stadium. Hours on Friday are 11 am to 4 pm, and on Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. To make an appointment, contact www.givebloodgivelife.org or call at 1-800-GIVE -Life.

The Department Convention in Wausau will have its blood drive on Friday, July 16th at Wausau East High School in the Black Room from 10 am to 3 pm. I hope to have some handouts from the American Red Cross regarding the make-up of blood, the different types, and other information, in the hope that

this will get more people to donate. We are still working on a blood drive for the National Convention.

We are looking for volunteers to march in the West Allis Memorial Day Parade. Members of the Legion, Auxiliary and the S.A.L., are invited to march. A lot of guys can't march like they used to because of their knees, feet, arms and whatever else may be bugging them. So we need some new blood out there. It's only a mile. It's one of the best miles you'll ever march. Flyers will be available for the Pancake Breakfast. Grab a bunch and get them to businesses, family and friends. The more information we get out to the community, the better chance that more people will attend the breakfast, and the more funds will be raised for Camp American Legion.

The 4th District has received word from Post 505 that they would like to merge with another Post. I mentioned to Wayne Jensen that the Todd Post would be interested. Dave Pier from Post 416 said they would be interested. So, its up to Post 505 to decide. This will have to be brought up before the Executive Board and membership to determine whether we would want to have them merge with us.

The next 4th District meeting will be the Spring Conference held here at the Todd Post, Wednesday, May 19th at 7 pm. Please note the time change.

One last thing: State Vice-Commander Marv Brozinski and members from the 4th District Installation team will install the new officers of the Post AND the S.A.L., at our membership meeting on May 4th. Lets stand up and support our new crew. That's it for now. See you at the Post.

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

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Law Day Loyalty Day
2	3	4 Blood Pressure Screening S.A.L. Meeting Membership Meeting	5 Cinco De Mayo	6 National Day of Prayer	7 Military Spouse Day Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces 1941	8 VE Day Declared 1945
9 MOTHERS DAY	10	11 House Committee Meeting	12	13	14 POPPY DAYS BREWER BALL GAME	15 POPPY DAYS Armed Forces Day Peace Officers Memorial Day
16	17 Auxiliary Meeting Ex Bd Meeting	18	19 4th District Spring Conference	20	21	22 National Maritime Day
23 Victoria Day (Canada)	24	25	26 Tokyo Bombed County Council Meeting	27	28	29
30 MEMORIAL DAY POST PANCAKE BREAKFAST	31					

May 4

6:30 pm - Blood Pressuring Screening
 6:30 pm - S.A.L. Meeting - Wimmer Room
 7:15 pm - Special Board Meeting (front of Hall)
 7:30 pm - Post Membership Meeting -
 Installation Of Officer (Post and S.A.L.)
 Cramer Hall

May 11

6:00 pm - Community Outreach Fund Meeting
 6:30 pm - House Committee Meeting

May 14 **Poppy Distribution - Various Locations**

Poppy Distribution at Miller Park - Members wanting to caravan to Miller Park, please meet at the Todd Post at 3:00 pm.

May 15

Poppy Distribution - Various Locations

May 17

7:00 pm - Fund Raising Committee Meeting

May 18

7:00 pm - Auxiliary Membership Meeting
 7:00 pm - Post Executive Board Meeting

Incoming & Outgoing Officers need to attend

May 19

7:00 pm - 4th District Spring Conference
 Todd Post - Cramer Hall

May 26

7:30 pm - County Council Meeting
 Pabst Post 421 - 92nd & Greenfield

May 31 **Post 537 Family, Memorial Day Breakfast** 7:00 am - noon

10:00 am - West Allis Memorial Day Parade
 all Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members are invited to March.

1:00 pm - Flag Disposal Ceremony at Post
 West side of the Building

AUXILIARY NEWS

Greetings Legion Family. The auxiliary is eagerly looking forward to working on the joint Poppy venture at Miller Park. As well as generating poppy funds, this will be an exciting event to be working at together. As summer is approaching and projects are taking a slower pace, we the auxiliary are hoping to find more projects that we can participate in as a family. As everyone hopefully is aware of the National Legion Convention is to be held in Milwaukee this summer. There will be tons of projects to be done in preparation for the arrival of Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary from around the country. I am sure that besides being a lot of work, we will have fun working together to accomplish what needs to be done. As always if you have any suggestions or concerns please contact me

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

Harv's Quik Quiz Answers

1. c. California. Thousands of years ago, this region was covered by the Pacific Ocean.
2. b. California. It is located in Yosemite National Park.
3. a. six years
4. a. Ronald Reagan. Note: Abe Lincoln was born in Kentucky and moved to Illinois when he was in his twenties.
5. c. Watch color television. Color TV was introduced in 1928.

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

2006-2007 Past State Commander
Charles Cooney

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The April membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm on May 4th, 2010.:

Commander
1st Vice Commander
2nd Vice Commander
Adjutant
Finance Officer
Chaplain
Historian
Sgt at Arms
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms

Danny Key
Eric Key
Cody Fitzsimmons
(open)
Roger Pufahl
Dan Gammon
Gary Mentel
Bob Sirovina
Andy Niehoff

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



MEMORIAL DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Come out on May 31st
and enjoy Pancakes,
Omelets, or both,

prepared, served and by the Legion Family members in Cramer Hall. WMIL-FM 106 will be broadcasting from live with the MOO CREW (Karen, Scott & Radar) from 6 am - 10 am.

Breakfast will be served from 7:00 am - noon. Cost is \$7.00 for pancakes or omelets. If you are really hungry, you can have pancakes and an omelet for \$10.00. Proceeds will be donated to Camp American Legion.

Help is always needed, with setup, cleanup, and serving. If you are unable to help with the work, please come and enjoy a good breakfast with your Legion family.

TAPS

We pray for all who have gone before us to the Arms of the Great Commander and for those who are unaccounted for from all the wars.

