

May 2012
Volume 4, Issue 10

Member of WALPA & NALPA

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

**DATES
TO REMEMBER**

May 1, 2012
7:30 pm
Membership Mtg
**INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS**
...
May 1, 2012
6:30 pm
SAL Membership Meeting
...
May 15, 2012
7:00 pm - Unit 537 Meeting
...
May 16, 2012
7:00 pm
4th District Spring
Conference at the Todd Post
...
May 18 & 19, 2012
Post Poppy Distribution
...
Monday, May 21, 2012
7:00 pm
Executive Board Meeting
...
May 28, 2012
**MEMORIAL DAY
POST 537 FAMILY
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
7:00 am - 11:00 am
Post Hall
Proceeds to be donated to
Camp American Legion
Bring your friends and family
and neighbors
...
Memorial Day Flag Disposal
1:00 pm
West Side of Post Building
everyone welcome



**POST 537 FAMILY MEMORIAL DAY
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

7:00 am - 11:00 am

Adults: \$7.00 Children 5 - 12 \$3.00

Pancake & Sausage or Omelets to Order

Both Pancakes, Sausage and Omelets to order are \$10.00

All proceeds will be donated to Camp American Legion

Open to the public. Please bring your family, friends, and neighbors.

This is an annual event that is sponsored by the Post, Auxillary and S.A.L. Our S.A.L. Squadron 537, are the "chief cooks" of the breakfast and do an excellent job of creating the omelet of your choice.

Juice, coffee and tea are also available.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY

1:00 pm - parking lot on the West Side of the Post Building

We recently took a Flag Etiquette Quiz. One of the questions was: "How should you dispose of a U.S. flag that's beyond repair?"

Options were 1) Burn it 2) Shred it 3) Give it to your local government or American Legion Post to dispose of.

The quiz gave the correct answer: "You should give a flag that's beyond repair to your local government or American Legion Post to dispose of." But my local government would not accept our old flag. What should I do to dispose of an old flag?

"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning"

Post 537 conducts an annual Flag Disposal Ceremony on Memorial Day of every year. Please attend this moving ceremony. This is a great tool for your children and grandchildren to learn what to do with unserviceable American Flags.

COMMANDERS CORNER

Walter Pfeiffer

Elections for 2012 – 2013 were held on April 3, 2012 at the membership meeting. Our incoming slate of Officers is listed on page six (6) this issue of the Tattler. They assume their duties as of June 1, 2013. Please keep this list available, so that if you need to contact one of us, you know who to call.

We have a great slate of incoming Officers, and I look forward to working with each of them. Please applaud each of them for agreeing to serve the Todd Post and the American Legion for the next year. Installation of Officers will take place at the Membership meeting on May 1, 2012. We ask that you come and join us for the meeting, and show your support for “Your” incoming Officers.

My time as Commander this past year has been exiting and rewarding. As many of you know, I have had some medical problems, but I managed to accomplish a lot, with the support of many post members, as well as the Officers who “served” the Post.

The rewarding part of my time has been all that has been done for our Troops, Children & Youth Programs, and the great cooperation from the Auxiliary and S.A.L. The exciting part has been that Linda & I have been able to attend the Post, District, County and State Events, and have met many different people, in many different walks of life, and getting to know many of our own Post members, new and old, who have attended our Post meetings. My biggest highlight, has been getting to meet men and women from the reserve units, as we have been invited to some of their gatherings, and letting them know what the American Legion is able to do for the Active troops, as well as the reserve members. This has resulted in a few of these individuals joining the ranks of the Legion, and, we hope, that more of them will join the Legion. So many of the “reservists” had no idea what we, as an American Legion, do for the troops, Children and Youth, and community.

All of our Veterans need acknowledgment. Each Veteran has served our Nation in some capacity and each Veteran is “great” for what they have done and will continue to do for our Country. We thank each of you for serving.

Come to our membership meetings, picnic, corn

roast, and parties and get to know your fellow Legionnaires. We really are a nice bunch of people.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1st Vice Linda Pfeiffer

Thank you to everyone. We have reached 100% for 2012. Wally and I and the American Legion thank you. It takes all of us to be a viable Veterans Organization.

If you want to pay your 2013 early, I will be sending out cards (when I get them) the end of June. I already have several members paid for 2013. Thank you. You will get a notice from National in late June for 2013.

Dues for 2013 for Post 537 will remind at \$35.00. If a member has 10 years as a member of Post 537 and is retired, dues for 2013 will be \$28.00. \$25.00 of each persons dues is sent to State and National.

Dues for 2013 for the Auxiliary will be \$25.00 for Senior Auxiliary members. S.A.L. dues for 2013 will be \$15.00.

FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Wally Pufahl, Doug Kueny, Brian Duerr

Remember that the hall is available for rent for weddings, parties, etc. Please let your friends know that we have reasonable prices and a “nice new” atmosphere for their enjoyment.

CHAPLAINS NOTES

Gretchen Davies

Spring: New life in the yard seems to lighten the spirits. Warm weather allows us to be outside to actually see & speak with the neighbors. Please remember to spread the joy of Spring amongst those that are homebound by spending a little time visiting with them or offering to assist the older neighbors or Post members with some of the yard work that comes hand in hand with Spring.

If anyone would like to participate in a "chore tree" please contact me, I will gladly organize a source list of workers so that members can call for assistance as needed!



ED'S HEAD BANGIN' QUIZ

1. December 12, 1897 began the longest running comic strip. What strip was this?
 - a. Dick Tracy
 - b. The Katzenjammer Kids
 - c. Prince Valiant
2. Who competed in the pentathlon in the 1912 Stockholm Olympics?
 - a. General Patton
 - b. Calvin Coolidge
 - c. Rudolph Valentino
3. Who created the briquette and started Kingsford Charcoal?
 - a. Thomas Edison
 - b. William King
 - c. Henry Ford
4. Who's the only former President of the USA to have been elected to the US Senate?
 - a. Millard Fillmore
 - b. Warren Harding
 - c. Andrew Johnson
5. Which President had 15 children?
 - a. John Tyler
 - b. James K Polk
 - c. James Monroe

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander Bob Sirovina Jr.

Greetings to all of SAL Squadron 537 members.

At our meeting in April, the following officers were elected for the coming year: Commander Bob Sirovina Jr; 1st Vice Commander Jim Thomas; 2nd Vice Commander Darryl Wnuk; Adjutant Tim Hansen; Finance Officer Roger Pufahl; Historian John Schultz; Chaplain Andy Niehoff; Sergeant-at-Arms Danny Key & Jason Montgomery.

The annual Auxiliary and Post poppy distribution will be May 18th & 19th at various businesses in the area. Help is needed for both days. Please give a few hours of your time to this very important project. Remember every penny raised through poppy distributions issued exclusively for veterans. Please contact Shirley Scott (Auxiliary) 414-541-1832; Jim Marinkovich (Post) 414-327-3420; or Bob Sirovina 414- 321-1479 and let them know what time you will be available.

May 28th, is the 537 Annual Memorial Day Breakfast. Over the past years, our SAL members have prepared and cooked the delicious omelets and pancakes that are served at the event. This year will be no exception. We need all our members to step-up and help that day. There is a lot to be done so even if you aren't a great cook, there will be plenty for you to do. Please come and volunteer some time and work side-by-side with other SAL, Post & Auxiliary members to make this a great event again this year. Don't forget to invite your friends and relatives to come and eat! More information will be available at the May meeting.

As my first year as your Commander comes to an end, I want to thank you for your participation and cooperation, and I look forward to another successful year working with you. As always, if you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 414-321-1479 or durango1@wi.rr.com.

FUND RAISING REPORT

Chairperson Gretchen Davies
Co-chair Linda Pfeiffer

PLEASE SEE THE REPORT FOR THE ALUMINUM
CAN DRIVE FOR THIS MONTH

Please join the Post fundraising committee on June 18, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. Bring along fun, fresh ideas for fundraising events. What would you like to see as an event? What has another organization in your life used as a fundraiser in the past that was profitable? What kind of event would entice your kids & grandkids to attend? (We would like to entice the younger generations to participate).

If you are unable to join us on June 18th, but you are just bubbling over with ideas, you can call either co-chair: Linda Pfeiffer or Gretchen Davies.

4TH DISTRICT REPORT

Mark Sandow - District 2nd Vice Commander

Memorial Day is the last Monday in May. We as a Post have a lot going on. First, there will be the famous Pancake Breakfast. Bring your family and friends, and most important, bring your appetite.

At 10:00 am, the City of West Allis Memorial Day Parade steps off from the intersection of 70th and Greenfield. The parade route is west on Greenfield to

75th, south on 75th to National Avenue, and then east back to Veterans' Park. We'd like to get a nice group of marchers for the parade and a color guard. If you can't march, there will be a few autos in the parade as well. West Allis Alderman Dan Roadt is working on getting a trolley for the parade for all WWII and Korean vets who would like to participate in the parade but can't march. At 11:00 am, we will have the annual Memorial Day Program at Veterans' Park. American Legion Department Vice-Commander Wayne Jensen will be the guest speaker.

BACK BY POPULAR VETERAN DEMAND!
Reclaiming Our Heritage will be held on the VA grounds on June 2-3, 2012. For more information contact forohmilwaukee.org or voice mail at 414-902-5599.

The City of Milwaukee Veterans' Day Parade will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2012. Guests of Honor this year will be the United States Coast Guard. Yes, it is the Marine Corps Birthday but I've been assured the Marines will be on their best behavior. Yeah, RIGHT! Anyway, we have a form that will need to be filled out and returned by September 1st, if anyone from our Post or Auxiliary or S.A.L. wants to march. Please let Commander Wally know if you are interested.

Speaking of Commander Wally, please congratulate him on being reelected Commander for 2012-2013. Installation of Officers will be held at the May membership meeting. 4th District Commander John Edelblute and his Installation Team (including me) will be performing the honors. Gretchen Davies has been elected Adjutant. Please give her the same honor and respect (and hassles) you gave me during the last year. I will be concentrating on District and Department duties as well as being Commander for VFW Post 7485 so I'll still be around. You can't get rid of me that easily.

Sweepstakes tickets are still available to support the American Legion 4th District "Veterans for Veterans Sweepstakes". Prizes are Grand prize-\$500, 2nd Prize-\$300, 3rd Prize-\$100, 4th-9th Prizes- \$50 each. Drawing will be here at the Todd Post on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, at 8:00 pm. There is no set cost for the tickets; you may give what you will. I would assume that the old stand-by \$1 per ticket or 6/\$5 is the standard.

The next meeting of the Mighty 4th District will be the Spring Conference to be held at the Todd Post on Wednesday, May 16, starting at 7:00 pm.

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 7 of this newsletter.

Greetings to All:

On Saturday June 9, 2012 we will be going on our spring chartered fishing trip on Lake Michigan. It is out of Racine and we will need to be there by 6:30 am. This time we have reserved 5 boats with plenty of spots left to fill. The cost is \$110.00 per person which includes boat, first mate tip, and food. Please contact me asap if you want to go. We would like the money by May 1st.

We will be presenting colors for a semi pro football team, the Milwaukee Venom, for their four home games this year. Here are the dates. Saturday June 9th, Saturday June 30th, Saturday July 28th, and Saturday August 4th. The games all start at 6:00 pm at Greendale High School and we will have to show up from 1/2 to 1 hour ahead of time. Not sure exactly on the arrival time, but I will let you know. Please contact me if you are interested. I know some of you did already. I'll be calling you.

Monday night May 7th a doctor from the VA will be coming to the post at 6:00 pm and will be leaving at 6:30 pm. He will be talking to anyone interested in quitting smoking and providing support to get over the hump and quit for good. He only has a brief period of time so try to be on time if interested. PLEASE let me know if you will come so we won't waste his time. Thanks.

Both the fishing trip and the stop smoking programs are open to all family members, SAL, Auxillary, American Legion Members, and Bar Patrons.

Major Veteran Benefit Programs

The Department of Veterans Administration operates a number of programs providing financial, medical and other assistance to veterans.

For Americans who received an honorable or general discharge, there are 4 major benefit programs:

- **Disability compensation
- **Veteran's pension programs
- **Free or low-cost medical care through VA hospitals and medical facilities
- **Education Programs
- **There are also benefit programs concerning:

Housing and Home Loan Guarantees

Job Training

**Small Businesses and business loans (Through Small Business Administration)

**Counseling

**Burials and Memorials

**Franchise Opportunities (Vet Fran)

**PTSD Support (National Center for PTSD Website)

Please contact our local Milwaukee County Service Officer Jim Duff with any questions at 6419 W. Greenfield Avenue in West Allis, WI. Ph: 414-266-1234.

Jim is also available if you are missing your Discharge paperwork, or need to get assistance with military records information. If you have not sent in a copy of your discharge papers to the Post, please be sure to get a copy to 1st Vice Pfeiffer. Block out all SSN numbers for security purposes. Anyone who becomes an Officer of the Post, District, Department, etc, must have proof of his / her service time. Records are kept in a secure location for everyones protection.

FROM THE DISTRICT DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE PERSON

I was approached by a member at our April meeting and he related that he had a friend who lived "up north" who wasn't paying any property taxes because he had been awarded the Purple Heart. I said that didn't sound right to me but that I would check it out. The member thanked me and said that perhaps the rest of the group would be interested in what I found out. OK, here it is: Wisconsin has some of the best veterans' benefits when compared to other states. According to the Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs Instruction B0106 (11/09), The Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit program provides a refundable property tax credit for the primary residence (in-state) via the state income tax form for:

- ** Eligible veterans age 65 or older who entered service from Wisconsin and have a combined VA service-connected disability rating of 100%.

**The unremarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran.

**The unremarried surviving spouse of a veteran who entered active duty as a Wisconsin resident, died in the line of duty, and was a Wisconsin resident at the time of death.

Nobody wants to have a major service related disability, but it is nice to know that Wisconsin takes care of its Veterans in that predicament. There are other requirements that allow for payment of this benefit for a lesser disability rating so, as always, the best information on your veteran's benefits can be obtained by consulting your American Legion Service Officer or your County Veterans' Service Officer.

4th DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Sue Hembrook

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

Greetings American Legion Family,

I would like to invite everyone to attend our Spring Conference which will be held on Saturday, May 5th at Unit 416, Greendale. We are having a speaker from Operation Homefront Wisconsin, some of us heard her at our Department Fall Forum and she is very interesting.

Our Legion Family may have the unique opportunity of having the Department President come from our Legion Family. If elected, I know that we will all do everything we can to support Diana Sirovina. We will have more information forthcoming in the near future on ways we can support her.

As always if you have any concerns or questions do not hesitate to contact me.

MEMORIAL VIEWING OF THE HONOR FLIGHT AT MILLER PARK

On Saturday, August 11, 2012 Stars and Stripes along with the WE Energies foundation will be presenting a memorial viewing of the Honor Flight. They felt that since many Vets are unable to endure the long flight and day they would have a presentation as an honor for those unable to travel.

The presentation will be various activities on the Miller Park grounds prior to the main event, a movie featuring the WW II Washington memorial. The movie

will be shown on the Brewers giant screen with seating arranged so that everyone has a good view of the screen.

The \$11.00 tickets can be purchased either on-line at StarsandStripesHonorFlight.org or through the Brewers ticket office. To date some 8,000 tickets have been sold and there are hopes for 25,000 to 30,000 being sold.

Group tickets are also available and can be obtained at StarsandStripesHonorFlight.org and then clicking the Honor Flight icon.

Gates will open at 3:30 p.m. for tailgating. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and the Event will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The only negative issue is there are surcharges. \$3.00 at the window for cash, \$3.50 for credit card use at the window and for a phone order with credit card use it's a \$4.50 surcharge charge.

Lastly, there is a \$10.00 parking lot fee so car pooling is most economical and advised.

AMERICAN LEGION AMERICANISM AND GOVERNMENT TESTING

On April 4, at 6:30 pm, 10 young people in grades 10, 11, and 12, came to the Todd Post to take the American Legion A&G test. Several of these young people are home-schooled students.

We do not have the results of the test, as this is statewide, as of this printing, but we can tell you that the adults from the Post who were brave enough to take the test would not have qualified for a scholarship. The test consisted of four (4) parts: 10 questions on the American Flag (which we all did real well on); 14 questions on Local & County Government (huh?????); 13 questions on Wisconsin Government (not too bad) and 13 questions on the US Government (ya, right). This is

really a civics test, and us older people should know the answers. The last part of the test is an essay question, and this year was on "what is RIGHT about America that makes it worth defending (there is more to this question). As we read some of the essays we were blown away. So my question to each one who reads this newsletter is "What is right about America, and WHY did you defend it?" Send in your answers in 200 words or less for publication in future newsletters.

Once the judging is complete on this years test, and if we get permission from the students, we will print some of their answers.

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS FOR NEXT YEAR

Commander Walter Pfeiffer	262-784-2807
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Finance Officer Wally Pufahl	414-541-0497
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Chaplain Doug Kueny	414-425-0059
Sgt-At-Arms James Borak	414-327-3352
Sgt-at-Arms Chuck Cooney	414-856-0804
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Service Officer Nick Berg	414-698-3181
nberg99@yahoo.com	
Judge Advocate Dave Wischer	414-429-2429
wisch537@yahoo.com	
Executive Committee:	
Robert Fyfe, Gene Hembrook, Wanda Fremut	
Legislative Committee:	
Dave Wischer, Dick McClain, Jim Linneman	
House Committee ----- phone numbers are above	
Doug Kueny, Brian Duerr, Wally Pufahl	



A & G testing at Post. Lots of thinking

CONTACT INFORMATION

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House Committee:
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Doug Kueny - 414-425-0059
Brian Duerr - 414-541-7703

Unit President Sue Middlestead
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S.A.L. Squadron Commander
Robert Sirovia Jr.
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ED'S HEAD BANGIN QUIZ ANSWERS

1. b. The Katzenjammer Kids
2. a. General Patton
3. c. Henry Ford
4. c. Andrew Johnson
5. a. John Tyler

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION AND RECYCLABLE METALS MAY 19 - 20, 2012

for Children and Youth Programs
Walter Pfeiffer

Is it time to clean out your
garage, basement, storage shed?

In addition to Aluminum Cans,
we can recycle copper, steel, and other
metals. We will have a trailer in the
Post Parking lot for recyclable metals
the weekend of May 19 and 20, 2012.

Any time you have a bag of
cans to be picked up, please contact
Commander Pfeiffer. We will be sure
to make arrangements to get them from
you. Thank you to the members who
have called. Every can counts.

You may bring your bags of
cans to the Post Membership meetings
and we will take care of them.

H.A. TODD JR POST 537 WEBSITE

On the website is a lot of good
information. There is a calendar of
events, so you can see from month to
month when meetings take place.
Volunteer Hours form. This is located
under Forms and Newsletters.

You can fill in all your volunteer
Information, and then print it and
bring it to a post meeting. OR, you can
save to your computer in PDF form
and email it to Linda Pfeiffer, and she
will print it off and give it to the
adjutant for including in the year end
reports (due in May) to Department
Headquarters.

MILLER PARK POPPY DAYS

We want to thank the following
Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members
who helped with Poppies at Miller
Park on Saturday April 21, 2013. Vi &
Ron Kaun, Sue & Gene Hembrook,
Sue & Jim Middlestead, Dorothy, Josie
and Geoff Schackmann, Gretchen
Davies, Gully Murphy, Jim Linneman,
Jim Marinkovich, Mark Pfeiffer and
Linda Pfeiffer. We had hoped for more
of our members to help, but we want to
recognize the individuals who gave up
a few hours to help collect donations.

We collected \$2387.20.

The wind was chilly, but it was
worth the effort to distribute Poppies
and collect donations for the Veterans
Programs covered by the Poppy
Program.

FROM THE COMMANDER

On April 13, 2012, tree bark
was delivered to the Post to be put
along the fence on the East side of the
building. The bark was donated to the
post, so I arrived with my shovel and
hoped for help. As the delivery truck
arrived, several of our S.A.L. members,
who were enjoying their time in the bar
came out to inquire as to what was
happening. When I told them, Don
Revolinski raced off to get his front end
loader and Darryl Wnuk, Andy Niehoff
and Jason Montgomery got shovels and
took over the job. What could have
been several hours turned in to a short
period of time and a job well done.
Thank you gentlemen. You are
appreciated by the Post, the House
Committee and me. (PS - after the job
was all done, my kids arrived with
their shovels (as Linda had called
them), they immediately called Linda
on their cell phone to ask: "Mother,
what are you talking about? Dad is not
here and there is no bark in the drive-
way". My dear wife handled me gen-
tly when I got home as she hung up the
phone.

3RD VICE COMMANDER

Jim Marinkovich
414-327-3420



Help is needed for Poppy Distribution on Friday May 18 & Saturday May 19, 2012. You can volunteer for an hour or two, or as long as you wish. We have several locations. Help us honor our Veterans by collecting donations so that we can continue to support Veterans Programs.

You may call me, or sign up at the May Membership meeting to help.



TAPS

Dominic Vitale
April 12, 2012
WWII

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family



Left: The Post was invited to attend the 128th refueling group Easter Egg Coloring and Egg Hunt on March 22, 2012. Commander Pfeiffer and 1st Vice Pfeiffer watched as the children and parents colored eggs and decorated them. The parents had just as much fun as the children did. The Post provided the dye for the eggs.

Ted Svea (Linda's brother) performed a magic show for the children and their parents. Ted has entertained the children at the Post Christmas Parties and picnic for the last several years.

Bottom Left: Commander Pfeiffer with SFC Alberti at the National Guard Armory on Richard Street.

Donated to the Post for the troops overseas was 100 boxes of girl scout cookies, bags of candy, and magazines. With the help of Wal-Mart in New Berlin, the troops were also given 100 Easy-Mac cups (a requested item) and gatorade. We received crossword puzzle books, which were also delivered to the Armory.

We will continue to accept donations of snacks, cookies, gatorade, gum, etc for the troops, for as long as they are in harms way.