

## COMMANDER WALTER PFEIFFER'S OUTGOING REPORT:

2011 – 2013

April 24, 2013

Thank you for allowing me to serve Post 537 for the past two years.

A lot has happened over these last two years. This is due to all the help that I received from the Post Officers and the membership. I want to thank my 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Linda, and Committee Chairperson Gretchen Davies, for all the time and effort they put forth to make our Post Fund Raising events successful.

I want to extend a special thank you to the House Committee, who oversaw all the renovations to the Post Hall in the last two years. Our "Post Home" looks great, and the men who served on the Committee spent a lot of time getting bids, making presentations to the board and making choices on the contractors who did the work on our Post Hall. There were speed bumps to go over and hurdles to cross when it came to inspectors and codes; but the job got done and I think that the entire Post has to take pride in what was accomplished. We do have an outstanding loan on the repairs, but hopefully will be able to pay this back quickly.

In my first term as Commander we were informed that there was a need for "Gatorade" for the troops stationed overseas in combat zones. With the help of many members, Auxiliary Unit 537, Squadron 537, other Legion Posts, the Mighty Fourth District, and the public, we received donations of Gatorade and monies to purchase Gatorade and other needed items in excess of \$3800. Wal-Mart in New Berlin gave us a nice discount on items. The 128<sup>th</sup> refueling group shipped the majority of the Gatorade overseas, and the National Guard distributed the balance to our troops from the Richard Street Armory in Milwaukee. In conjunction with this, we received from Greendale Post 416 a huge amount of microwave popcorn, which was distributed to the 128<sup>th</sup> Refueling Group, National Guard on Richards Street, the National Guard in Waukesha, as well as Veterans at our own Post.

We held our 1<sup>st</sup> Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast and open House in 2011 with proceeds going to the Gatorade Drive. In 2012 we held a Veterans Day Pancake and Omelet Breakfast with proceeds being donated to "The Fisher House".

While delivering Gatorade our post was invited to come and help with the Annual 2012 Easter Egg Hunt Party at the 128<sup>th</sup> Refueling group. My wife, Linda and I went with egg dye kits and vinegar, as well as some treats, along with "Ted, the Magician" to help with this event, for the children of Active Duty Members. White dresses and egg dye do not

make for a happy parent, but the children had a fun time coloring eggs and then locating all the goodies that were hidden by the Easter Bunny.

We received a request for Mac & Cheese from the National Guard, and with an anonymous donation from a Post 537 member, and a really nice price from Wal-Mart, we were able to deliver the Mac & Cheese cups along with a large donation of Girl Scout Cookies (from a private party) to the Guard for the troops overseas.

We received a request for a flag for a "Newly formed Cub Scout Troop" and not only did we get them a flag, but several of our members attended a meeting to show the Cub Scout Troop how to carry and post the flag and how to properly fold the flag, along with a presentation on what the folds of the flag mean.

Each year we were able to supply our "Adopted 4<sup>th</sup> grade class" at Manitoba School on 43<sup>rd</sup> & Forest Home, with needed school supplies, flag coloring books, and flags. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Jim Marinkovich (2011-12) and Jim Middlestead (2012-13) did a great job on presenting the flags as well as the supplies to the students, along with the help of a few other Legion members. It brings tears to ones eyes when a child in 4<sup>th</sup> grade writes a thank you letter that states: "This is the first time I have had my own crayons" and "I wish you were my Dad". So many kind letters of appreciation by young people who have needs that some of us cannot and do not want to imagine. Several of the members of the Post and the Auxiliary Unit came with bags of needed supplies for the Children this past fall. This helped to bring down the costs of supplies, but enabled us to provide additional needed items. Thank you to all who contributed to this project.

Each year our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commanders also arranged for a coloring contest at a local school. The pictures are of a patriotic theme, and the young people who won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes received a certificate and a monetary gift. The joy on their faces and the pride and appreciation from their parents, make this project for the "Children & Youth" of the community well worth the cost, time and effort.

In 2012 we sent four young men to Badger Boys State, this coming year, with the aid of proceeds from the Cabela Fund Raiser we are not only sending four boys to Badger Boys State, but in addition we are able to help our Unit Auxiliary send two young ladies to Badger Girls State.

Our Post Family Children's Christmas Party was well received by the children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren of Post Family Members. They enjoyed the Magician who donated his time to entertain them, bring them on stage, make them wonder how he got the "rings" together and apart, and he made balloon animals for them. They loved

Santa, Mrs. Santa, the "Elf" and their gifts. This was followed by a Joint Post Family Christmas Parties with great food prepared by our "famous SAL cooks".

In 2012 and 2013 we opened our Post doors to high school (mostly home-schooled) students in grades 10, 11, and 12 to take the Americanism and Government Scholarship test, and we are pleased that each year, at least one of each of these young people scored high enough on the test to win a Scholarship.

Our Post picnics were well attended by Post Family members, and while the weather did not cooperate all day, there was lots of good food and visiting, not to mention raffles.

Our Annual Post Smokers were well planned, a few tweaks added, by our Smoker Committee, and lots of good food, fun and card playing. Fresh popped popcorn (courtesy of Tri-City Bank", was an added treat.

Our Annual Joint Memorial Day Pancake and Omelet Breakfast was held in 2012 and will again we held in 2013, with proceeds going to Camp American Legion. This joint venture has the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL working together to accomplish a way of serving our Veterans.

I received a phone call from a person who worked at a local motel complex that was closing. He told me that they had lots of "guests size" items that would be thrown out if no one wanted them, so I hopped in my van and picked up "lots" of travel size, soap, shampoo, etc, that the motel put in rooms for the guests, and all of this will be given to the "Homeless Women Veterans" gift bags, at the local level, as well as gift bags for the ladies who will be at Camp American Legion this year. No cost to us, but gold to our "Veteran" ladies.

Some of our Post members donated gently used clothing for men and women, some children's clothing, as well as books which were donated to Dayton House for Veterans in need, in Kenosha, and the rest for the Homeless Women Veterans here in Milwaukee.

In the Summer of 2012 we were pleased to see Diana Sirovina, from Unit 537 elected as State Auxiliary President, and just this past month, Mark Sandow was elected to the Post of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander of the Mighty Fourth District, after serving as 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice due to a death of a District Commander and a resignation of another Commander.

For the past two years our Todd Tattler Editor, who is also the Editor of the Fourth District Newsletter, brought home the award for the best District Newsletter in the State. Linda has worked very hard to get information out to both Post 537 and the entire Fourth District.

Post 537 was well represented at State Convention in 2011 and 2012, and at Midwinter in 2012 and 2013.

The Aluminum can collection has brought in close to \$800.00 over the last two years, with the proceeds being used for Children and Youth Programs. It's an easy way to raise funds with very little effort. Thank you to those members who saved their cans.

A Post member recently notified us, that a neighbor is faithful at displaying the U.S. Flag. So, we felt it was important to honor this woman and mailed a Flag Citation to her. I would have liked to present it to her at a Post Meeting, but her schedule would not allow her to attend.

Poppies were distributed at local stores in May last year, and again will be distributed this May, and at Miller Park last year and again this coming June. Proceeds from Poppies are used for Veterans Projects.

The Post Bar is still operating well, despite the economy. Our manager Julie has done a great job, and I thank her for all her time and effort, to make sure that we can continue to remain open to serve our members and the public.

My final project will conclude this June 30<sup>th</sup>, with a joint Fund Raiser for "The Fisher House" with all four of the Legion Posts that call the Todd Post Building their home, along with the Auxiliary and the SAL. I mentioned to Linda that this would be a nice project to start, and once the Executive Board approved it, Linda picked up the ball and ran with it. She contacted The Police Post, The Bell Telephone Post, and Post 219, from the 5<sup>th</sup> District, who all meet at our Post and they jumped on the wagon. We hope that this will bring in a nice amount of money for the "Legion Family" for Fisher House.

Last but not least, I have to praise Linda, who is my right and left arm. While my health has not been its best, and my eyes are not able to focus all the time, Linda helped me get through all the meetings, and she conducted the two meetings that I had to leave because of my health. She spearheaded all the paperwork for me, and made sure that things were done on a timely basis. She helped any Officer who asked her for help and spent hours on the phone with Veterans, inviting them to join the American Legion, and Post 537.

Our membership as of this writing is the highest it has been since 1998. She worked hard for me, and for Post 537.

Again, I thank the entire membership for giving me the privilege to be your Commander and serve you over the past two years.



# The Todd Tattler

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May 2013 Member of WALPA & NALPA  
Volume 5, Issue 10

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

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Tuesday May 7, 2013  
Membership Meeting  
Installation of Officers  
7:00 pm - Post Hall

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May 7, 2013  
SAL Meeting  
Installation of Officers  
6:30 pm - Wimmer Room

...

May 15, 2013  
4th District Meeting  
7:00 pm - Todd Post

...

May 20, 2013  
Four Pillars Project Mtg  
6:15 pm

...

May 20, 2013  
Executive Bd Meeting  
7:00 pm - Post Hall

...

May 21, 2013  
Unit 537 Aux Meeting  
Installation of Officers  
7:00 pm - Post Hall

...

Poppy Days  
1 location - May 9 - 10  
6 locations - May 17 - 18  
Miller Park - June 8  
Miller Park - June 22

...

May 27, 2013  
7:00 am - 11:00 am  
Annual Todd Post Family  
Pancake Breakfast

...

May 17, 2013  
Annual Flag  
Disposal Ceremony

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**POPPY DAYS:** We need lots of volunteers to distribute poppies. All proceeds from the distribution of Poppies are used to benefit Veterans and Veterans Programs. There is a flyer for signing up to distribute Poppies. Please note that you do not have to distribute all day, you may let us know a time frame that you are able to help. Miller Park distribution is approximately 2 hours. Members who are able to walk the parking lots where there is tailgating are encouraged to help. See the flyer for date and time. The more people we have the more monies we collect. Miller Park is a great place to show the public that we are Veterans serving Veterans.

**FISHER HOUSE FUND RAISER:** We will be holding a fund raising event on June 30th, 2013 in the parking lot (we have ordered warm weather). We will have music, food, games, raffles, a bake sale, fishbowl and a magic show. If the weather is bad, we will move indoors. We are looking for donations for raffles: certificates for meals, car washes, oil changes, etc. Donation letters will be available at the May membership meeting. Please note that this is a combined event with Police Post 415, Bell Telephone Post 427, Post 219, and our Unit 537, which all meet at the Todd Post. As our preamble states "We associate ourselves together for the following purpose --- "to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by a devotion to mutual helpfulness." This Fund Raiser is for the Veterans and their families who will be able to stay at the Fisher House which will be built on the Zablocki Medical Center Grounds. As with all good things, the ground breaking has been pushed back to this coming fall. But, if all goes well, it will be available for the use of the Veterans by next spring. Money is always an issue, so this is our way of helping. Once built, their will be items that will be needed to make the Fisher House a welcoming place for the Veterans and their family members who use the facility. Please come and support this project.

Raffle tickets will be available in the near future at the Post Bar, or you can contact Gretchen Davies, Linda or myself, and we will get tickets to you. We need your help to sell the tickets.

As a teaser: We have received a 2012 signed Packer Football for this event. We also have a Bar and 2 stools and a beautiful framed picture. We are seeking other "neat" things to raffle or auction, so if you have something please feel free to contact me, and we will make arrangements pick the items up, or you can bring it to the Post. Please contact me prior to bringing anything to the Post, so that we have someone there to receive the donation.

## FROM OUR WEBSITE:

Dear Members, My husband is a 100% disabled Vietnam Vet. On Monday March 18th, we visited the VA for what we thought would be a check up and possibly a stress test, they admitted him immediately and on Friday the 22nd he had by-pass surgery. They did 5 by-passes. After surgery he was given a red pillow in the shape of a heart, a pillow your post donated to the VA hospital in Milwaukee. He will not let go of the pillow as it helps him so very much with the pain from the surgery. He was released yesterday the 26th because he is doing so well, we made the three hour drive home to central Wisconsin and he hugged the pillow all the way. I needed to let you know just how much your donation of these pillows means to the Vets after heart surgery. Thank you to each and every one of you for the pillows and thank you for your service to our country.

## ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Gretchen Davies

Please note: To all the new members who have transferred from the Holding Post 2930 to Post 537, we need you to verify your eligibility to belong to the American Legion. This is because we are chartered by Congress. Check the dates of eligibility on the back of your membership cards. We need to see a copy of your discharge papers or certificate. If you mail a copy to the Post, and your Social Security number appears on your discharge papers, please block the SSN out in black. This is for your protection. We do not need to know your SSN. In the event of an IRS audit, the Post needs to be able to state that our Legion Members are eligible to belong to the American Legion.

If you do not have a copy of your discharge papers and need to obtain one, there are a number of ways this can be done. We can mail you a form that you can fill out and you can send for the discharge papers; you can contact the County Service Officer for help, or the American Legion Service Office at the VA Medical Regional Office; or if you have internet access, you can fill out the form on the internet and a copy of your discharge papers will be sent to you. The online site is :  
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>

At our May membership meeting new Officers for the upcoming year will be installed. We will also be giving out stars and certificates to members who have 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60 years of membership in the American Legion. For those who contacted me with their information, please be at the meeting which starts at 7:00 pm.

Elected Officers for 2013 - 2014

Commander:	Nick Berg
1st Vice Commander:	
2nd Vice Commander:	Brian Duerr
3rd Vice Commander:	Gene Hembrook
Adjutant:	
Finance Officer:	Wally Pufahl
Chaplain:	Gretchen Davies
Parliamentarian:	David Wischer
Historian:	
Sgt-at-Arms:	Jim Borak Jim Linneman
Service Officer:	Keith Froemming

Last call for June 2012 - May 2013 volunteer time. The report must be sent to WI Department by end of May so PLEASE get your sheets or letters to me no later than May 10, 2013. As long as it is legible you can put it on any piece of paper. Basic categories are Community Service such as helping non-Veteran neighbors, assisting at your church, local hospitals, animal shelters, food pantries, polling sites, donating blood  
Children & Youth means helping at schools, with scouts or church youth groups, sports teams and Legion oratorical.  
Military & /or Veterans: Career fairs, home visits, chores, errands or chauffeuring, funeral honors.

Tracking volunteer times gives the American Legion a strong voice on Capitol Hill.... Please make sure all your good deeds are counted.

## 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 do what is necessary for them or their family. If there are any other questions please contact me. My contact information is on page 3 of this Newsletter.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Commander Walter Pfeiffer  
1st Vice Linda Pfeiffer - Editor  
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waltlindapfeiffer@sbcglobal.net

2nd Vice Brian Duerr  
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3rd Vice Jim Middlestead  
Unit President Sue Middlestead  
414-545-2727  
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Chaplain Doug Kueny  
414-425-0059

Service Officer Nick Berg  
414-329-8184 - home  
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Adjutant Gretchen Davies  
414-731-8240  
Gretchen.Davies@revenue.wi.gov

Parliamentarian Dave Wischer  
414-429-2429  
wisch537@yahoo.com

House Committee:  
Wally Pufahl - 414-541-0497  
Doug Kuney - 414-425-0059  
Brian Duerr - 414-541-7703

S.A.L. Squadron Commander  
Robert Sirovia Jr.  
414-321-1479  
durango1@wi.rr.com

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Milwaukee County Service Officer  
Jim Duff 414- 382-1727  
5000 W National Ave, #4,  
Milwaukee, WI 53214

VA Regional Office 414- 902-5722  
Am Legion Svc Officer James Fialkowski  
5400 W. National Ave #164  
Milwaukee, WI 53214-3461

## FOUR PILLARS SUPPORT

Gretchen Davies / Linda Pfeiffer -  
co-chairs

We are working on the multi-Post Fisher House fund raiser event that will be held on June 30th. Please contact co-chairs Linda Pfeiffer or Gretchen Davies if you have donations for the event. Call if you have doubts about what to donate but remember, we can put many items to use: large items for the main raffle or raffle paddles, small items in the fishbowl, children's games, toys & school supplies for the "fish tank".

As always, we need people to assist with set up starting around 8:00 am.; break down starting about 5:30 pm.; and people willing to take shifts manning booths and the kitchen and the grill.

The next meeting for the Fisher House project will be held on April 30, 2013, at 6:30 in the Post Hall. Anyone who wishes to help with this project, or has helpful ideas, are welcome to attend this meeting.

**S.A.L. SQUADRON 537**  
Bob Sirovina Jr, Commander

Greetings to everyone in the 537 Legion Family!

New officers were elected at our last meeting. Officers serving for 2013-15 will be:  
Commander: Bob Sirovina, Jr  
1st Vice Commander: Tim Hansen,  
2nd Vice Comm: Don Revolinski,  
Adjutant: Danny Key  
Finance Officer: Roger Pufahl  
Historian John Schultz  
Chaplain Andy Niehoff  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Jason Montgomery.  
Please congratulate these new officers and wish them well as they begin their service to our Squadron.

State Convention will be held July 18-21 at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact me.

The SAL will be taking the summer off for some much-needed rest but we already have plans in the works for another great Spaghetti Dinner and food drive this fall. Details on both will be shared as they become available. Watch for information on the bulletin boards around the Post.

As another year nears it's end, I want to thank everyone for their support and interest in our projects. Have a great summer everyone!

## 4TH DISTRICT REPORT

Mark Sandow  
4th District 1st Vice Commander

The next meeting of the Mighty 4th District will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at the Todd Post in Cramer Hall. This is the Annual Spring Conference.

## LAST MAN'S CLUB BOARD MTG

The executive board of the Last Man's Club will have a meeting following the May Membership meeting.

## A & G SCHOLARSHIP TEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Linda Pfeiffer

We had six students who took the A & G Scholarship test this year, under the guidance of the Post. Again, we are proud to say that one of these young people won a scholarship. While we do not know what she wrote in her essay, we do know that she correctly answered 96% of the questions. This young lady is a home-schooled 10th grade student.



**ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY  
PANCAKE AND OMELET  
BREAKFAST - MAY 27, 2013  
7:00 am - 11:00 pm**

The annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast is right around the corner and the SAL will be there to help make this event successful. If you have a couple hours free on Monday, May 27th, please come over and help for awhile. This is a great annual event for the 537 Family and everyone needs to step-up and make it bigger and better than ever. All proceeds will be donated to Camp American Legion. Want to know about Camp AL? Website is: [wilegion.org/page/content/services/camp-american-legion](http://wilegion.org/page/content/services/camp-american-legion)  
\$7.00 Pancakes and Sausage; \$7.00 Omelet  
\$10.00 Pancakes, Sausage and Omelet  
\$4.00 Children: ages 5 - 12 / Children 4 and under free

There will also be a bake sale. Thank you to all the talented bakers that donate time & ingredients for this Event. This does include our the entire Legion Family, Post, Auxiliary and SAL members who love to bake. Please have baked goods at the Post by 7:00 am on May 27th. If you need to deliver them on May 26th, please contact Sue Middlestead so that someone is at the Post to put the "goodies" in a safe place. "Goodies left out in the open can be eaten."

**AMERICAN LEGION GOLFERS**

Are you looking for a game? Join the A.L. Tuesday morning Golf League. Start time is 7:35 am. We play at four (4) different golf courses: Greenfield, Whitnall, Grant and Oakwood. Call Wayne Goldbach at 414-546-6488 to join the group or for more information.

**2ND VICE COMMANDER REPORT**

Brian Duerr

Please mark your calendar for Saturday August 3rd for our Annual Post Picnic. The Picnic will be held at Valley View Park, 5051 S Sunny Slope Rd., in New Berlin, Picnic area 2.

Time is 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.  
Food, visiting, raffles, and fun. All Legion Family members are welcome.

**ANNUAL POPPY DAYS 2013**

3rd Vice Jim Middlestead



We will be distributing poppies at local stores on May 17th and 18th. We will also be distributing poppies at Miller Park on June 8th June 22nd (both Saturdays). Times for Miller Park  
June 8th 4:45 pm - 6:30 pm - Brewers vs Phillies  
June 22nd 1:45 pm - 3:30 pm - Brewers vs Braves

We try to stay at the Ballpark until the end of the 1st inning, as people from the tailgating groups walk in late to the game.

We need members to sign up for helping with the poppy distribution. Please use enclosed slip to sign up and give it to me at the May meeting, or mail to the Post to my attention. You may also contact me by phone.

We will vote at the May meeting on the distribution of monies in the Poppy Fund from 2012. Recommendation from the Executive Board is:

Dry Hootch:	\$500.00
Fisher House:	\$500.00
VA Spinal Cord Unit:	\$500.00
Wounded Warriors Project:	\$500.00
Kenosha Outreach/Dayton House	\$500.00

**POST EXECUTIVE BOARD  
MEETING - MAY 20, 2013**

ALL incoming and outgoing Officers should attend this meeting.

**TAPS**



Mark A Gehring  
April 8, 2013  
Marines - Korea

James G Button  
April 14, 2013  
Navy - Korea



We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace in the arms of the Commander of us all.