



The Todd Tattler



Official Publication of the Harold A. Todd Jr., Wisconsin Motor Post 537

November 2009 Member of WALPA
Volume 2 Issue 4

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

Commander Brian Duerr 414-541-7703

Service Officer Nick Berg 414-698-3181

Todd Post Website: www.toddpost537.org



COMMANDERS CORNER

Well, I did it! On Sunday, October 11, 2009 I ran the Chicago Marathon: 26.2 miles.

I wasn't the fastest racer, nor was I the slowest. My time was 6 hours and 13 minutes. Not a record breaker, but due to my injuring my back this summer, I was not able to train as much, so, I was just happy to finish and talk about it.

I was very disappointed at the turn out for our last membership meeting. We were unable to conduct business at this meeting because we did not have a quorum. We need 10% of our members to attend to have a quorum. Some of the business we conduct at our meetings might directly affect you, so please make it an effort to attend our next meeting. If we do not have a quorum we cannot vote on requested funds from the Children & Youth, and Veterans Fund. We have a few requests to discuss, so please attend the November meeting so that we can finalize these requests.

At our next membership meeting on November 3, 2009 we will be having Post Everlasting. Please attend this meeting and help honor our fellow Comrades that have gone to the Commander since November 2009. Past Commanders are needed to help with the

ceremony. Please contact me if you can help.

November 11, 2009 is Veterans Day. This is also the night of our drawing for our Children, Youth and Veteran Benefit Fund. Tickets are still available for \$25.00. If we do not have enough tickets sold we will have to refund. This would be a shame since this fund helps Local Children & Youth and Local Veterans Programs. Please consider obtaining a ticket.

I received an email from Dave Wischer. In recognition of your service to our Country, all veterans and active duty military personnel are invited to eat free at Applebee's Restaurant on Veterans Day. **Proof of service required.** This could be your uniform service ID card, retired service card, current LES statement, veteran organization card, wearing your uniform or your American Legion or VFW membership card.

Also, On Monday November 16th, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Veterans eat free at Golden Corral Restaurants. (ID required). In addition Sunday, November 8, 2009, McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant pay's tribute to our Veterans with a complimentary Entree from a special menu. (Please call to confirm time and make a reservation).

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As I write this article, I want to thank the 234 members who have paid their dues for 2010. This brings us to 72.2 % of our membership paid. This is great. Thank you. Now I have to ask that the remainder of our members submit your dues as soon as you can please.

REMEMBER that if you are retired and have 10 years in the Todd Post, your dues are \$28.00 for 2010. The dues notice from National does not state the reduced amount for retired persons, as this is at Post level only. It would be wonderful to have the Post at 100% by Veterans Day. We can do it - but it takes all of us.

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS, please email, or call me and advise where you are stationed so that this information can be passed along to the "Active Duty" committee chairperson.

Awards were given to the Post for 100% membership and also for membership growth awards for 2009. Thank you to the members who made this possible in 2009. We received Honor Ribbons from State and National for achieving the goal of 100% by December 30th. We also received an award for the highest percentage of growth in the membership in the 4th District for 2009. Awards were given at the State Convention. These Awards belong to ALL THE MEMBERS of the Todd Post. It is not my award or the membership's committee awards, but the POST'S. I again thank all the members that made this possible. These awards have been given in the past to the Post. Once in a while we do not meet our goals - but I hope that we as a Post can achieve our Goals this year. We ended the 2009 membership year with 321 members, so we need to receive dues from 87 more members. We lost several members to the Great Commander of us all last year, so we need to recruit several "new" members to reach our goals. Please help in this

endeavor. Our voices combined with the voices of the rest of the members of the American Legion throughout the World (including Active Duty Personnel) are heard in Washington. We all help to make sure that benefits for Veterans are kept at a high level. I would like to ask that each member talk up the American Legion, recruit a new member, and if you have not paid your dues, please do so. We value all our members.

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

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

Greetings to each of you. I have a special request: I ask that, in addition to prayers for the ill, injured and deployed amongst us, we all add praying for a mild winter to our list. Of course, mild temps could mean excess snow. Such a dilemma. Prayers for our deployed is very important. They are in harm's way and need the Great Commander to watch over them and keep them safe.

Thoughts of winter bring to the forefront thoughts concerning our house bound members. If you have the ability to visit other members and break up the monotony of the dreary days of winter, please contact Nick Berg for names & addresses of Veterans in need of visiting, transportation, or even just a phone call. If you know someone who could use a cheerful visitor, make sure Nick has that information as well. If you are the member who wants a visit or some errands run, call and let us know please. We can't help if we don't know you need help.

Now is the time to think about Christmas Care packages for our deployed troops. A set of boxes will be going out Halloween weekend. Holidays away from home are hard on the military people far from home and their families, and we would like to send them some Christmas

greetings. Anyone who would like to make out a Holiday Card, please bring them to the next Post Membership meeting and those cards will be included in our packages. They do not need to be addressed to a specific person as they will be shared with the troops. View the website for a list of items that can be shipped or call me for suggestions. For those people who have donated money to the Post for the Care Packages, thank you, I went shopping and purchased coffee and other assorted goodies that have been put into the Care Packages. And to all you active duty members, please be sure to submit your personalized requests: care packages can be fine tuned to include things that are special to the troops in your area. We know that there are things you cannot have, but we may not know of special items that are needed in your area that you cannot get on base.

Fortunately, another of our deployed members has returned to U.S. soil, safely (proof your prayers work). Remember, boxes can be sent to troops who are not part of the Todd Post. If your neighbor or someone at church has a child or grandchild that is deployed to a war or police zone please provide the APO/FPO to either Nick or myself so said Soldier or Sailor, Air or Corpman can have a little something from home!

To each of you: Happy Veteran's Day.
Thank you for serving our Nation and keeping each of us safe.

Chaplain Gretchen Davies
414-227-4301

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Hello. Some new medical conditions have been linked to Agent Orange exposure. Please see the article below which explains it in detail. 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.

Policy Shift to Aid Vietnam Vets Exposed to Agent Orange

10/15/09 - The VA announced plans to make it easier for veterans suffering from certain medical conditions linked to Agent Orange exposure to qualify for VA benefits. The Department plans to add Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease and B-cell leukemias to the list of illnesses presumed to have been caused by Agent Orange, which is already more than a dozen, including Hodgkin's disease, prostate cancer and Type 2 diabetes. Presumptive status makes it easier for those veterans to obtain benefits. The new policy will apply to some 2.1 million veterans who set foot in Vietnam during the war. It will not apply to sailors on deep-water ships, though the VA is continuing with plans to study the effects of Agent Orange on the Navy. VA estimates that about 200,000 Vietnam vets might seek benefits under this proposed change. Under laws governing Agent Orange policies for veterans, the VA cannot make benefits decisions based on cost, only on the scientific evidence. Some doctors and researchers say the expansion of Agent Orange benefits has been based on inconclusive science, given the lack of studies on Vietnam veterans. Those skeptics argue that diseases like prostate cancer or Type-2 diabetes are just as likely the result of aging, lifestyle or genetic predisposition as exposure to Agent Orange.

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

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. When did Hollywood, CA became the "Movie Capital" of the world?
 - a. 1915
 - b. 1925
 - c. 1908
2. In the 1850's these men tried to keep immigrants from holding Public Office. What were they called?
 - a. Whigs
 - b. Democrats
 - c. Know-Nothings
3. Where to Kings and other Important Guests stay when they visit the White House?
 - a. Blair House
 - b. White House
 - c. Five Star Hotel
4. What President kept an alligator in the East Room of the White House for several months?
 - a. Andrew Jackson
 - b. John Q. Adams
 - c. James Madison
5. America was named for an explorer from what country?
 - a. Italy
 - b. Spain
 - c. England

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 "Hypertension Myths" & "Family Support". Here's a brief explanation of the topics to be presented:

Hypertension Myths

When it comes to your health, there's a lot of information out there. But there's also a lot of mis-information! Be sure to attend our next meeting when Gretchen and I will talk about some common MYTHS about blood pressure, including:

"Your blood pressure should be 120/80 or lower."

"If you need more than one pill, you have severe high blood pressure."

"High blood pressure causes diabetes."

"Drinking too much regular coffee will give you hypertension."

The actual facts might surprise you, but you can check them out with your doctor or on the web. At the meeting, Gretchen and I will lead everybody through a short quiz and hand out a great booklet about managing high blood pressure. Gretchen and I will also provide a handout on these myths so you can share them with your family.

Family Support

Do people who have supportive family or friends live longer, healthier lives? There is good scientific evidence that says "yes." And people dealing with chronic health conditions are better off if their family members learn how to be supportive. After all, most activities that affect our health—meals, physical activity, taking medication—happen at home or in the presence of family or close friends, not in a doctor's office.

At our next post meeting, Gretchen and I will lead a discussion to discover ways that you use to work with your family and friends to give and receive health support. Gretchen and I will describe a contest with the other POWER Posts that encourages members to sign up a friend or family member to share some healthy activity.

The Posts that have the most members who sign up will have an opportunity to win a *cash prize.* The more people who attend and participate, the better our chances of winning!!!

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

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

FUND RAISING ??

Wake up everyone it soon will be November 11th Veterans Day. Apparently the majority of Post members has forgotten that there is a Benefit raffle drawing taking place on that day. I would have thought that with a membership exceeding 325 members that we would not have a problem selling the required 365 tickets for this fund raiser, or maybe I have come to expect too much from the members of Todd Post. I believe it is time for all members to read the Preamble of the American Legion and then maybe there would be a better understanding of what the American Legion, and its members stand for. When I say benefit raffle, it is not to benefit us directly but to BENEFIT THE VETERANS AND CHILDREN OF OUR COMMUNITY, which indirectly benefits all of us, not only as Legion members but also as human beings. I'm sorry if I have offended anyone as that is not my intended purpose, but as being a 29 year Life Member of this Post I believe it is time to speak up as the leadership needs to due. If there is anyone who feels that they can due a better job than the current fund raising committee please step forward, we would love to take a break. There, I've said it the only way that I know how. So please participate even if you don't like the way that I say things.

Dave Wischer
Chairman Fundraising Committee

CHILDREN - YOUTH - VETERANS FUND RAISER

Tickets are \$25.00 each with a payout of \$2500 for 1st place. We have 50 prizes and the lowest prize is \$50.00. ALL proceeds from this fund go to benefit local Veterans and Children and Youth Programs. This includes the Coloring Contest, Oratorical Contest, Badger Boys State, etc. Without funding we cannot continue with programs for our youth. Share a ticket with someone. Need a ticket? call one of the numbers below and we will get a ticket to you, OR mail a check to the Post and we will mail a ticket stub back to you. Please help.

Chairperson Dave Wischer	414-429-2429
Chuck Cooney	414-852-5782
Linda Pfeiffer	262-784-2807
Mark Sandow	414-545-0409
Nick Berg: Cell:	414-698-3181

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

I recently received a phone call from Raquel Kloske regarding Youth Government Days to be held March & April of 2010. This is open to all sophomores and juniors preferably in some sort of social studies or government class. She stressed there is funding available for this project and suggested that a tour of the courthouse or attending a mock trial might be in order. She also suggested that this idea might work better on a County or District level as there could be more participation from more than one post. If you know a sophomore or junior that might be interested, let me know.

The "American Legion Extension Course" was held in conjunction with the 1st, 4th and 5th Districts at the Todd Post on October 10th. Of the 45 people who signed up, only 26 attended . If you would like to learn more about the American Legion, this is THE course to attend. There is a lot

of useful information given out at one of these seminars. So, the next time you see this seminar offered, consider attending. It's the best 4 hours you'll spend in a long time.

Department Vice-Commander Marv Brozinski and 4th District Commander Wayne Jensen have been invited to attend our "Post Everlasting Ceremony" to be held at our November Membership meeting.

The next 4th District meeting will be held Wednesday, November 18th at 7:30 pm at Tanner-Paull Post 120, 6792 W. Orchard St., West Allis. We cordially invite all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members to attend our meetings.

See you at the Post. Mark Sandow
Post Historian and
4th District Vice-Commander
414-545 0409- Home
414-418-0993-Cell

AUXILIARY NEWS

Unit 537 is hosting our annual Fashion Show on Wednesday November 4th. Everyone is invited to join us for an evening of fun and fashion. This year there is a Fashion Fair beginning at 6:30 pm where you will be able to browse and purchase the latest jewelry designs from Jewelry by Darlene, Designs by Kathy & Tracy, Lia Sophia, beauty items from Splash Hair Design & Spa, and more. At 7:00 pm ten of our very stylish members will model the latest trends in fashion from Dressbarn in Johnson Creek.

There will also be raffles, door prizes, refreshments and maybe a few surprises. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Contact Audrey McClain at 414-541-9622 to purchase advance tickets.

If you have not paid your 2010 dues, please send them to Membership Chairman

Violet Kaun, 7901 S Scepter Dr #4, Franklin, WI 53132, as soon as possible. Also, if you know of any ladies that are eligible to join "the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world", please contact Chairman Vi or any Auxiliary Officer.

On behalf of our entire Auxiliary Unit, I want to wish all of our Post members a Happy Veterans Day and thank each and every one of you for serving our country. As the magic of Autumn turns the leaves orange and red and Thanksgiving time comes again, here's a warm wish from all the Auxiliary members for everyone to take the time to count your blessings and to have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ ANSWERS

1. a. 1915
2. c. Know-Nothings. When asked about their party's secret activities, they would reply "I know nothing".
3. a. Blair House, which is located across the street from the White House.
4. b. John Q. Adams. He liked to shock and awe people. The alligator was a gift from Former General Lafayette.
5. a. Italy. Amerigo Vespacci claimed to be the 1st to set foot on the mainland in the "New World".

Question 2 from last month: Ronald Reagon was credited with saving 77 (not 7) lives during his career as a Life-Guard.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The November membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm on November 3, 2009.

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

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS	2	3 Election Day Post Blood Pressure S.A.L. Meeting Post Everlasting Membership Meeting	4 Unit 537 Fashion Show	5	6	7
8	9	10 US Marine Corp Established House Committee Meeting	11 Benefit Raffle Drawing VETERANS DAY	12	13	14 VFW Fall Dance
15	16	17 Auxiliary Meeting Ex Bd Meeting	18 4th District Meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24 VFW Meeting	25	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27	28
29 1st Day of Advent	30					

POST CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 12th from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm the Post will be sponsoring a Children's Christmas Party for Children 12 and under. This party is for the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Post, Auxiliary, and S.A. L members whose dues are paid for 2010. Please see enclosed reservation form. Please fill it out and return it to the Post **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25TH. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.**

Santa will make an appearance. We will also have a magician to entertain the young and old alike.

POST CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Post Christmas Party will be held on December 12th from 5:00 pm until midnight. Dinner will be by reservation only and will be \$5.00 per person. The dinner is open to ALL Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members and spouses. Your dues must be paid for 2010.

Following the dinner there will be a dance with music by North Country (50's and 60's) music. One of the members of the band is a Post Member. The dance is free to all adult members of the Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L members whose dues are paid for 2010.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Call for your FREE estimate!

\$20 OFF



BORTH-WILSON, INC.

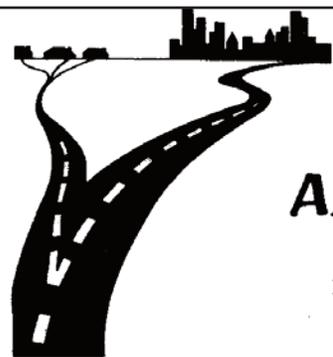
PLUMBING * REMODELING * CARPENTRY

262-781-6466

3270 N. 126th St. Brookfield * www.borthwilson.com

Mention this ad and receive \$20 off plumbing service or 5% off remodeling

* Maximum \$100 discount * Not valid with any other offer



Suburban
Asphalt Co., Inc.

Since 1965

11251 W. Forest Home Ave.
Franklin, Wisconsin 53132
(414) 425-5353

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

2006-2007 Past State Commander
Charles Cooney

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Permit No 5038

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material

LEGION FAMILY CHILDREN & YOUTH PROJECT

Many of us purchase Campbell's Products, and also General Mills Products with BoxTops for Educaiton. On many of these products there are labels (points) for educaiton. The Legion Family is adopting Franklin and Madison Schools in West Allis to help in the LABELS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS. This benefits the children of the school with items for sports and other educational programs. We are asking all of our Legion Family members to take off the Labels from Campbells Products, and General Mills products and bring them to the Post. We will have a box for you to put the labels in.

The schools also get educaitonal benefits for McDonalds receipts.

Helping the youth of our local area is a priority and this is a simple way that we can all contribute to a worthwhile cause. If you have labels, but cannot bring them to the Post, please contact Diana Sirovina at 414-321-1479 so arrangements can be made to pick up the labels, or they can be mailed to the Post: attn: Diana Sirovina.



Elmber Nuernberg - November 8, 2008
Carl Konkel - November 11, 2008
Frank Bauza - December 8, 2008
Norbert Bunzel - December 19, 2008
Rudolph (Rudy) Klein - December 20, 2008
Ervin Wisniewski - February 1, 2009
Chester D Kintop - March 4, 2009
Nicholas Allen - April 15, 2009
Douglas Schwartz - June 18, 2009
Sam Beaumont - July 9, 2009
Ralph Stromski - July 11, 2009



They served our
Nation to help keep
us free.

They have gone
before us into the
Arms of the Great
Commander.

We Honor their Service.
We Honor their Memory.
May they rest in peace

