



The Todd Tattler

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

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

Commander Brian Duerr 414-541-7703
Editor Linda Pfeiffer 262-784-2807

Service Officer Nick Berg 414-698-3181
Todd Post Website: www.toddpost537.org

DATES

TO REMEMBER

October 2, 2010
11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Cramer Hall
Octoberfest - Pig Roast
Raffles, Food and Fun
Family friendly
...
October 2, 2010
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Cramer Hall
Octoberfest Dance
with DJ/ Karaoke Kevin
Raffles, and refreshments
...
October 5, 2010
7:30 pm
Membership Meeting
Cramer Hall
...
October 30, 2010
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Halloween Dance
sponsored by the S.A.L.
Cramer Hall
...
December 19, 2010
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Cramer Hall
Legion Family
Childrens Christmas
Party with Santa
...
December 19, 2010
5:00 pm
Cramer Hall
Legion Family
Christmas Dinner

COMMANDERS CORNER

Our next membership meeting will be Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:30 pm in Cramer Hall. I hope you will make plans to attend the meeting. For those of you who are new members, or members who have not attended a meeting before, I want to let you know the meetings are harmless to your health. The meetings usually last 60 to 90 minutes. During this time we take care of the business that affects the post. Afterwards, we have a light snack and refreshments. This is the time to meet other members and share ideas. Also, if you have concerns regarding the Post, this is the time and forum in which to ask questions and find out information. Too often, information is exchanged at the bar, and unfortunately, that information is not always accurate, and consequently wrong, or inaccurate rumors are spread. If you cannot make a meeting, and need information, please contact me, and I will be happy to address your concerns.

Mark you calendar for October 2, 2010. The Post is having its annual Octoberfest celebration. The event starts at 11:00 am and ends at 6:00 pm. There will be a pig roast and other food available, and pricing is family friendly, so bring your family, friends and neighbors and come enjoy yourselves. Raffle tickets are available now at the bar and will be available that day, until the drawing at 6:00 pm. You have a chance of winning money, and other prizes. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

That evening there will be music in the hall from 7:00 pm until 11:00 pm provided by 2nd Vice Commander Karaoke / DJ Kevin Barry. If you wish to sing (and not on national TV) here is your chance to get up and share your voice with the crowd. Even, if you can't sing well, we will all be willing to listen. Refreshments, and snacks will be available. Admission is \$10.00 per person. Proceeds are for our "Community Outreach" fund.

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are currently at 217 paid members for 2011 and to reach 100% we need 321. Please contact me if you have questions. The sooner you pay the sooner I stop bugging you. Dues for 2011 are \$35.00. If you are retired and have been a member of Post 537 for 10 or more years, your dues are \$28.00.

The American Legion is always contacting the Federal and State Governments to protect the rights of the Veterans, as well as to obtain benefits for our current returning combat Veterans. Our strength is in numbers. The more members the Legion has, the stronger our voice is in Congress. We always need new members. If you know any service member from the Gulf War era, please ask him or her to consider becoming a member of the American Legion.

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The October membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm on October 5, 2010. Dues for 2011 are \$10.00.

The S.A.L. squadron is busy with a food drive for our fall project. Several of our members have contacted local grocery chains, and canners for donations of non-perishable food items. We recently delivered 10,500 lbs of canned food to Hunger Task Force. Our mission is to feed the poor. Our goal is 25,000 lbs of canned goods, but we would like to reach 50,000 lbs. There is a container in the Post Bar for donations. If all you can give is one can of food that would be great. If everyone who comes to the Post for a meeting, or event, brought one can of food, just think of the large amount of people who would be fed. We hear so often about those in need in other countries, but we often forget about those who are in need right here in our local community. With so many people in our area out of work, and many with expired unemployment benefits, feeding a family is very difficult. If you wish to donate money for us to go shopping for canned foods, please make the check

payable to: S.A.L. Squadron 537, and in the memo section, note: "Fall Food Drive". Money donations can be left at the bar, or mailed to the Post to my attention. Thank you.

Adjutant Jim Thomas

POPPY DISTRIBUTION

We will again be distributing Poppies at various locations on Saturday November 6th. We need all the members from the Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. that are able to help, join us in this project to raise funds for Veterans and their families.. Perhaps you can only work for an hour or so; but each hour helps. Sign up sheets for times and locations will be available at the Post Membership meeting in October and November, and at the Auxiliary Meeting in October. S.A.L. members please contact a Post Officer if you are able to help.

There were 10 people who helped distribute poppies at Miller Park on Monday September 20th. The efforts of these individuals raised in excess of \$1050.00 for the Poppy Fund. Poppy Funds are used to help Veterans and their families who are in need. If you know of a Veteran who has fallen on hard times, and could use a Food Basket, or Certificate for the upcoming holidays, please contact the Service Officer of the Post, or any Officer of the Auxiliary or S.A.L. In order to help our Veterans, we must be told that they are in need. We cannot help, if we do not know about their struggles.

Jim Marinkovich
3rd Vice Commander

WE ARE COLLECTING ALUMINUM CANS FOR THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND

On Sunday, November 14th, from 9:00 am until 7:00 pm, a trailer will be in the Post Parking Lot for bags of Aluminum Cans for recycling. Please bag them. If you take off the Pop-Tops, please put them in a separate container, and bring them along, for the Ronald McDonald House Project for the Auxiliary.

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. President George Washington enjoyed what favorite dish for breakfast, at his vast Mt Vernon Plantation?
a. Grits b. Hoe Cakes
c. Eggs
2. Which President began the tradition of celebrating July 4th, at the White House?
a. Thomas Jefferson b. Geo Washington
c. John Adams
3. President James Madison's wife, Dolly Madison, served what novelty dessert at her husband's 1813 Inaugural Ball?
a. Ice Cream
b. Jelly Beans c. Gelatin
4. What did George Smith improve and market in 1908?
a. Popsicle b. Lollipop
c. Caramel Apple
5. President Franklin D. Roosevelt served what item to King George VI & Queen Elizabeth of England, during their 1939 visit to the U.S., creating headlines across the globe?
a. Hamburger b. Apple Pie c. Hot Dog

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

We are still reviewing bids for the under bar coolers, hopefully by next month we will have it finalized.

The Corn Roast was a Success, good weather and all. We have received comments on the day it was held: some liked Saturday, others said they would prefer we hold it on Sunday again, next year. Why don't you give us your opinion? Just drop us a note or postcard stating your preference: "Annual Corn Roast", 9159 W. Beloit Rd., Milwaukee, Wi. 53227, attn House Committee. Octoberfest is coming fast, in fact this Saturday. Come out and enjoy it with us.

Wally Pufahl
House Committeeperson

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Greetings to all. If you are aware of a Post member who is ill, in need of assistance, or who has passed away, please contact me as soon as possible, so that I can perform my duties as Service Officer. If you have questions on Veterans benefits, please contact me, and I will help as best as I can. My contact information is at the end of this article.

Here's another update for the newly designated conditions related to agent orange during the Vietnam War that I spoke of in previous articles. If all goes well the VA will begin to make payments on October 31st. Please see the article below. VA Defends New Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions in Senate Hearing: 9/23/10.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a long-anticipated hearing on the three newly designated Agent Orange service connected presumptive conditions of Parkinson's Disease, Ischemic Heart Disease and B-cell Leukemias. Responding to concerns about the costs of a rapidly expanding program, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, a Vietnam veteran wounded in combat, told the Committee that the law requires his agency to grant automatic benefits for diseases that are scientifically associated with Agent Orange. It leaves him no discretion to weigh costs or other considerations, he said, such as the fact that heart disease occurs commonly in men in their 60s and is strongly linked to smoking, poor diet and other factors. He said that existing research "more than satisfies the law's requirements." Most senators said they supported the plan. Several stated concerns over the process and said that changes may be necessary in the future. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, NAUS estimates that the VA will begin making payments for the three newly designated conditions on October 3, 2010. If you have already applied please be patient as the VA has stated they have already processed numerous applications and are only waiting for the mandatory 60 day waiting period to be over.

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

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

It's October already! What happened to summer? Went by wa-a-ay too fast for me. However, it is nice to have the temperature about 20 degrees cooler in the morning. The National Convention has come and gone. It was a great success with many favorable comments about Wisconsin, the 4th District and their handling of the Convention and of course, the Todd Post. The Legacy Riders presented National Commander Clarence Hill with a check for over \$360,000 at the Todd Post. Final tallies indicate that over \$600,000 was raised for the Legacy Fund. Pictures of the Post, Chuck Cooney and Gene Hembrook showed up on the Internet. I was a parade marshal for the National Parade held on August 26th. My wife Sue, son Brian and I worked the National Blood Drive on Sept. 1st. We met our goal of collecting 50 units of blood. I am very happy with the results. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this Convention a Huge Success.

4th District Commander Wayne Jensen has announced his intent to run for Department Vice Commander. He received the endorsement of the 4th District at the last District meeting.

The VFW Calendar lists October 13, 1775 as the birthday of the U.S. Navy. Navy Day is on the 27th. Happy birthday to all us old tars. Speaking of the VFW, I will check with the VFW and advise you on their plans for the Veterans Day Celebration.

The next District meeting will be the Fall Conference, to be held at the Greendale Post 416, 6351 W. Grange Ave, Greendale, October 20th, at 7:00 pm sharp.

If you have any pictures or items that could be used for the History Book, let me know. I'm sure some of you have items you'd like to donate. Make sure you have information about the event, the date, location and names of persons pictured.

That's all for now. See ya at the Post.

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

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.

We will be presenting 2 topics at the October meeting: Cholesterol Basics and Knee Pain. Here's a brief explanation of the topics to be presented:

Cholesterol Basics: The POWER Program has always focused on things that affect blood pressure, but for many people, cholesterol is just as important – or even more important. At our next meeting, Gretchen and I will explain, just as a 20-point increase in your blood pressure doubles your risk of a stroke, a 50-point increase in your bad cholesterol doubles your risk of a heart attack!

Knee Pain: The POWER Program has always stressed maintaining good health. At our next meeting, Gretchen and I will show how knee pain is a very common problem. It's important to understanding where knee pain comes from, the things that can be done to prevent and treat knee pain, as well as when to see a doctor.

Again, thanks for your continued participation and support in the POWER program. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

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

LEGION FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please fill out reservation form for the Childrens Christmas Party, and the Joint Post Family Christmas Party and return as per instructions. Please note: the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of paid 2011 Post, Auxiliary and SAL members are eligible for the Childrens Party.

FROM A MEMBER

Dear American Legion Members:

I work with Brian Duerr and recently told him about my Dad's Honor Flight. Brian asked if I would submit a letter to the American Legion on behalf of my dad. I was very happy to do this for all of you. This is on behalf of my father, Leonard Sopa, a WWII vet that just completed an Honor Flight to see the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. on 09/19/10 with 200 other Vets.

The morning started off early assembling at Mitchell International Airport at 0400. After checking in, Vets were matched up with their guardians and then ate a light breakfast. Once they boarded the 747 and were on the runway waiting to depart, 3 WWII planes taxied ahead of them on the runway as an escort. Dad stated it was quite a sight. Then as they prepared to taxi, fire trucks assembled and sprayed the water cannons while the jet taxied underneath the water spray.

When they arrived in D.C. they boarded 4 buses and began the trek to the WWII Memorial. Dad stated this was the highlight of the trip. He stated it was hard to describe how massive and beautiful the Memorial is. It took 2 and ½ years to complete the Memorial. There is a pillar for each State and there are 4,000 gold stars around the Memorial. Each star represents 100 soldiers that were lost in the war. What a staggering amount of lives that were lost for our freedom!

Next they headed over to the Iwo Jima Memorial. Dad stated it was amazing how detailed the monument is. They look so real. Then they headed to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and were able to see the changing of the guards. Another impressive sight. The absolute perfection of the soldiers guarding the tombs is an emotional tribute to those that were lost. Such dignity and respect. Unfortunately when you have 200 Vets between the ages of 81, and 97 years old, it takes awhile to gather everyone up and load the buses. They were able to drive past the Vietnam and Korea Monuments, but did not have time to stop.

The final stop of the day was at the Pentagon and the memorials to those killed in the plane crash and in the Pentagon itself. They did a great job of rebuilding the damaged portion of the building. Somewhere along the line, they also visited Arlington Cemetery. It was an amazing sight to see thousands and thousands of white tombstones precisely laid out. Dad said it was a long day, but very much worth every moment. Finally, on the flight back, they announced there was going to be a "Mail Call." Everyone was given a stack of letters from family and loved ones in addition to letters from Senator Kohl, County Executive Walker, and even from children in schools throughout Wisconsin.

They did not arrive back in Milwaukee until about 11:00 pm. But, when they did, what a surprise. They were greeted by many members of the Military, Law Enforcement, and bagpipers. As they rounded the corner there was a pathway roped off surrounded by a few thousand people that welcomed them back from this very memorable trip. One of the things Dad mentioned was not to forget the "Guardians." Dad's guardian was Steve Walter. These men and women are unsung heroes to the Vets. Through generous donations by citizens and businesses all Vets selected for the Honor Flight incur no expenses. The Honor Flight is America paying back the Vets for their service for our freedom. The guardians pay \$500 and receive training. Their job is to assist the Vets in any way they can to make this the most memorable trip for them. Dad could not say enough about Steve. Dad had to use a wheelchair for some of the trip and he stated Steve "worked like a dog." Without these generous volunteers, it would not be possible.

On behalf of my Dad and the rest of our family I would like to thank all of those involved with the Honor Flight program. What a great tribute our heroes from "The Greatest Generation."

Sincerely,

Mark Sopa

Note: Leonard is a 25 year member of the American Legion and a member of the Todd Post.

AUXILIARY NEWS

There are signs of fall in the air and not just the leaves turning colors. Sure signs of fall for our Auxiliary are the many events that take place before winter arrives.

October 25th is our annual bus trip to the Oneida Casino. Why not join us for a day of socializing and maybe even a little gaming. Who knows you just might be one of the lucky ones that comes back with a little extra green in your pocket. October 24th is the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival that is being hosted by the Tomah VA in La Crosse. This annual program is the culmination of talent competitions in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music for Veterans treated in the VA's national health care system. Why not take a drive to the western part of our state to witness this truly amazing event. October 29th & 30th is Fall Forum at the Wilderness Resort Glacier Canyon Lodge in Wisconsin Dells. This is your BEST opportunity to learn about all the Auxiliary programs directly from each Department Chairman, have some fun and make a few new friends.

November 14th is a special day for the H. A. Todd, Jr. Unit 537 Auxiliary as we gather to celebrate 60 years of Service, Not Self. Our Unit received our charter 60 years ago, and what is more fitting to celebrate the thousands of hours of service to our veterans, our children and our community than to come together as the 537 Family and enjoy an afternoon of food and fun, reminiscing about those events that shaped our Unit and made it what it is today. All members of the 537 Family, please plan on joining us as we celebrate this milestone in our history.

Fall is also the time to renew our memberships. If you have not paid your 2011 dues, please do so NOW. If you know of any female that may be eligible to be part of the largest women's patriotic service organization in the world, please encourage them to join us.

Several more events are planned for this year but more information will be provided as they get closer. As always, if you need any information, please

contact me.

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

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Greetings to the "family". We are definitely working on joint ventures to keep the Community Outreach Fund a viable concept. Please mark your calendar for the dance after the Octoberfest pig roast, as the proceeds from this event will be for the Community Outreach Fund. Please come and help for an hour or so, for this worthwhile event. Call me, if you want to volunteer for a specific time or chore.

We are still looking for ideas that will reach a broader audience; if you have tried and true methods that have been used by other organizations please submit them to your unit's representative or feel free to attend the next "family fund raising" meeting on October 18th at 6:00 pm in Cramer Hall. All ideas are welcome.

Gretchen Davies
414-731-8240

POST OCTOBERFEST CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 2, 2010

11:00 - 6:00 pm in Cramer Hall



The Post will hold its annual Octoberfest celebration "Pig Roast" on October 2, from 11:00 am - 6:00 pm. There will be pork dinners, chicken, brats, fun, great times and raffles. Raffle tickets for many prizes, with the top three prizes of \$250, \$150, and \$100 will be available at the Post Bar. If you are unable to come to the bar, please send a check to the Post and ticket stubs will be mailed to you, or contact a Post Officer for tickets. We are more than happy to give you a chance to win a raffle prize. Bring the family for lunch, or dinner. Prices are reasonable, and the food is well prepared by our Post "Chef's".

October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Octoberfest Celebration and Dance
3	4	5 Blood Screening SAL Meeting Membership Mtg	6	7 War on Terror began 2001	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day observed	12 Columbus Day (actual) House Committee Meeting	13 US Navy Est 1775	14	15 National Boss Day	16 Cuban Missile Crisis began
17	18 Fund Raising Committee Mtg Post Ex. Bd Mtg	19 Auxiliary Meeting	20 4th District Meeting	21	22	23 US invaded Grenada
24 United Nations Day	25	26	27 Navy Day Milwaukee City Council Meeting	28	29	30 SAL Halloween Dance
31 Halloween						

ATTENTION VETERANS AFFECTED BY THE WISCONSIN FLOODS

The National American Legion offers individual and Post Grants to victims of natural disasters. Grants are offered to current American Legion members in areas devastated by a declared natural disaster. The grant limit for individuals is \$1500.00 and the grant limit for Posts is \$5000.00. If you were a victim of the floods in our local area this past summer, please go to the following site for an application for assistance:
www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/nefapplication_1007.pdf

October 2 - Post Octoberfest Celebration
 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm - Dance - to raise funds for the Community Outreach Fund

October 5
 6:30 pm - S.A.L. Meeting - Wimmer Room
 6:30 pm - Post /VA Blood Pressure Screening
 7:30 pm - Member Meeting - Cramer Hall

October 12
 6:30 pm - House Committee Meeting

October 18
 6:00 pm - Joint Fund Raising Committee Mtg
 7:00 pm - Post Executive Board Meeting

October 19
 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting - Cramer Hall

October 20
 7:00 pm - 4th District Fall Conference
 Greendale Post 416, Greendale, WI

October 30
 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm - S.A.L. Halloween Dance

November 14
 60th Auxiliary Anniversary Party
 Cramer Hall

December 21 -
 3:00 pm - Post Children's Christmas Party followed by Legion "Family" Christmas Dinner at 5:00 pm in Cramer Hall

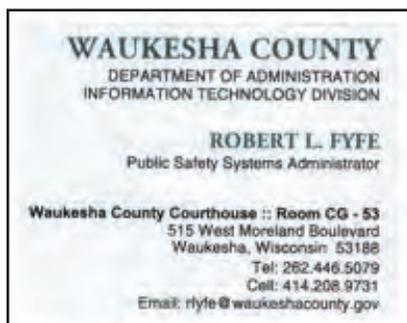
If you do not have access to the Internet, and need an application form, please contact a Post Officer and we will mail an application form to your home.

Harv's Quik Quiz Answers

1. b. Hoe Cakes
2. a. Thomas Jefferson
3. a. Ice cream - Note: She heard a caterer named Phillip Lenzi from London came to New York, to see how it was doing.
4. b. Lollipop - Note: He found that putting the candies on a stick made it easier to eat. Also, he loved to go to the Horse Races and his favorite Horse was named "Lolly Pop". He patented "Lollipop" in 1931.
5. c. Hot Dog - Note: They picniced at the Roosevelt home on the Hudson River. Headlines read: "King tries Hot Dog and asks for more" But Queen, baffled on how to approach them, finally settled for using a knife and fork instead of doing as Pres. advised."

VA offers Medallions to Mark Graves

Veterans who choose not to be buried in a national or state VA cemetery, but still want a government furnished grave marker have a new option in the form of a new VA benefit. VA announced in June that it will begin distributing medallions featuring the various military service to note the deceased's veterans status. Please advise your family of this option so that when you pass they can request this option.



Please call Rob if you need Computer Assistance

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

2006-2007 Past State Commander
Charles Cooney

Non-Profit Organization
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Dated Material

**POST OCTOBERFEST
DANCE**

OCTOBER 2, 2010

7:00 - 11:00 pm in Cramer Hall

proceeds will go the Community
Outreach Fund

Our own Post D.J. (2nd Vice)
Kevin Barry, will be our D.J. for the
evening with a variety of music for
you to dance to. Do you Karaoke? If so, come
Karaoke with Kevin for the evening. Price is
\$10.00 at the door, and includes beer, soda, and
popcorn. We will have many raffles and the
S.A.L., will be there with their famous "jello
shots". Come join us for a fun evening.

This is a fund raising event for our
Community Outreach Fund. If you have an item
you would like to donate for a raffle, please bring
it to the September membership meeting, or
contact Gretchen or Linda, and we will arrange to
be at the Post for delivery or arrange to have
your item(s) picked up. Many people in our
community need help, and we would like to be
able to give them a helping hand.



**S.A.L. HALLOWEEN DANCE
OCTOBER 30, 2010**

7:00 - 11:00 pm in Cramer Hall

Come "dressed to kill", in your
halloween attire. Vampires, goblins,
and other assorted creatures are all
welcome. More details to follow in
the Tattler the end of October. Watch
for "omens" around the Post Bar, with
information for your demise.

TAPS



Robert W. Mantey
September 13, 2010
US Air Force
Korean War



Our sympathy is
extended to his family.
May they rest in peace.