



The Todd Tattler

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

October 2011
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Member of WALPA & NALPA

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

GATORADE DRIVE FOR THE TROOPS

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 4, 2011
6:30 pm
S.A.L. Membership Mtg
...
- October 4, 2011
7:30 pm
Membership Meeting
...
- October 11 2011
5:30 pm
House Committee Mtg
...
- October 17, 2011
6:00 pm
Veterans Day Planning Mtg
...
- October 17 2011
7:00 pm
Executive Board Mtg
...
- October 18, 2011
7:00 pm
Unit 537 Auxiliary Meeting
...
- October 19, 2011
7:00 pm
4th District Meeting
Greendale Post 416
...
- October 26, 2011
7:30 pm
Milwaukee County
...
- November 13, 2011
8:00 am - 11:00 am
Cramer Hall
followed by open house
Noon - 4:00 pm

The Todd Post, with the help of North Shore Bank, Walmart, other businesses in the community, and several Legion Posts are conducting a "Gatorade Drive" for the troops. This is a request that came from the 128th refueling Wing, based at Mitchell Int'l Airport. They will fly the Gatorade over to the bases in Afghanistan and Iraq to be distributed to the troops on the bases and in the field.

UPDATE: This drive has already generated donations from several post members in the form of Gatorade and cash to purchase Gatorade. Thank you very much. We have received \$100 from Greendale Post 416, \$250.00 from the 4th District, and \$100 from the Post Poppy Fund. With donations received we went to Walmart in New Berlin with \$500 to purchase Gatorade (they gave us the best price) and Walmart donated \$200 worth of Gatorade, so this is \$700.00 worth of Gatorade, totally 141 cases of Gatorade. We are currently making arrangements to deliver this product along with several cases that have been donated by other Legion Members, along with books, small stuffed animals, and other items to the 128th Refueling Wing. Neat, Super, Great, and every other good word we can think of. Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all who have been so generous. **Pizza Hut** in West Allis, will be placing flyers on all their "take out" boxes during the 1st two weeks of October.

We need to extend our thanks to **Creative Graphic Imaging**, on 87th and Greenfield. Our newsletter is printed by this wonderful group of people, who have donated the flyers that are in a number of stores, banks, and other businesses, as well as the flyers that Pizza Hut will put on their boxes. This is not only a Legion Project, but has become a community project.

On November 13th, there will be a pancake breakfast at the Post from 8:00 am - 11:00 am. Our wonderful cooks from the S.A.L. Squadron will prepare breakfast for us. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, Tea, Juice and milk.

From Noon until 4:00 pm on November 13th, there will be an Open House at the Post to thank ALL Veterans for serving our Nation. Information on Veterans Benefits will be available, as well as information on what the "Legion Family", Post, Auxiliary, and SAL, do for Veterans, and Community will be on display. Please mark your calendar for this eventful afternoon. Details to follow in November Tattler.

The Todd Post is here to help Veterans and Active Duty Personnel.

COMMANDERS CORNER

Walter Pfeiffer

October is here and summer has left us again.

The Post Project for this term is Gatorade for the Troops. All money collected will be used to purchase Gatorade, and taken to the 128th Refueling Group, at Mitchell Field to be transported to the Troops in harms way, in the name of the Todd Post and the American Legion, as well as all sponsoring businesses.

I look forward to seeing our members at all of our Legion Meetings and Events. As you come to our meetings and hear and see what we do, I hope it will be a motivation for you to give "a few hours" of your time to help with our projects. If you can give one day a year to help us with Poppy Distribution, a pancake breakfast, march or ride in a parade, help with Flag Disposal on Memorial Day, help at the Post Picnic, Corn Roast, or whatever we have going on, your time is appreciated. If each member, who is able to help, would give a little of their time, it would be great. Perhaps you could make phone calls to say hi to members who are not feeling well, or maybe you might want to stop and visit a member in a nursing home, or help a member with shopping, clip coupons (that you don't use) for the PX's overseas, or write letters to the troops. There are so many things that can be done from your home if you are unable to get out. We as the "American Legion" are about helping our fellow comrades, male and female, and letting our troops on Active Duty know that we care. So, let us know what you can do. If you have another idea on how to help Veterans let us know, we are willing to listen.

Please keep track of ALL your volunteer hours, and give that information to Adjutant Sandow, for reporting to National Headquarters. National reports the Volunteer Hours to Congress every year. It shows Congress that the American Legion is Active, Strong, and cares about Veterans and Active Duty Personnel, and gives the American Legion the clout to continue to fight for Veterans Benefits, and fight to maintain the benefits Veterans currently have.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1st Vice Linda Pfeiffer

We have slowed down with our 2012 dues renewals. We are currently at 221 paid members for 2012. We need to reach 293 for 100%. And, should be exceed that, we will be eligible for cash awards from the 4th District. I love challenges, and really like cash awards.

Thank you to all who have sent in your dues. If you have not paid your dues yet, you will be getting a notice from National Headquarters in the next couple of weeks, reminding you to send in your 2012 dues. Please do so as quickly as possible.

We ask that you continue to invite eligible members to join the Legion, and remember to let them know that their wives and daughters can join the Auxiliary, and that their sons can join the Sons of the Legion. Dues for Auxiliary are \$18.00, and the SAL dues are \$10.00. Need an application, call me, I will mail several of them to you.

Dues for 2012 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.

FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Wally Pufahl, Doug Kueny, Brian Duerr

If you have questions related to what is happening within the Post Clubhouse, please address those questions to the House Committee members at the October membership meeting. And please remember that the bar is a social gathering place. Post business does not belong at the bar, please come and join your friends, and relax and enjoy yourselves.

By the way, have you been to the Post lately, to see all the "improvements" that have been made in the last couple of years? We upgrade our homes and make things comfortable for our daily use, we are upgrading the Post to make it more comfortable for our members. And, we are handicap accessible. Come check us out.

2ND VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Brian Duerr

Please see the enclosed reservation form for the "Family Legion" Christmas Parties on Saturday December 10, 2011.

The Childrens Party is open to Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren 12 and under of all Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members. The party will start at 3:00 pm, and of course Santa will be there to give gifts to the young people. Reservations are required and due no later than November 30th, so that "Santa" can have his elves get the gifts ready for the children.

This is followed by a "Legion Family" dinner in Cramer Hall. No food or drink can be taken out of the Hall. Dinner will be catered, but if you wish to bring a dessert to share, this would be a welcome item, and would help to keep costs down. Please let me know if you plan on "sharing" a dessert. Price is \$5.00 per person, children under 12 are free.

After dinner, we will be entertained by "North Country", who play a variety of music. If you attend the Dinner, the dance is included in the \$5.00. If you do not attend the Dinner, there will be \$10.00 charge at the door. The Dance will be open to the Public.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Adjutant Tim Hansen

1st Vice Jim Thomas

Greetings to all our S.A.L. members. The next membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held at the Post, at 6:30 pm on October 4, 2011 in the Wimmer Room. We hope to see all of you there. Our 2012 dues drive is in full swing. Please send the dues to the Post c/o SAL. Thanks to all those who have already paid. Dues are \$10.00.

Our next S.A.L. event is the Halloween Dance on October 29, 2011. We will have fun for all, with a band and costumes.

We will also be helping the Post with their activities. Read their sections in the Tattler to see if you may want to help out.

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.

October 1st GI Bill Benefit Changes
Monday, September 19, 2011 8:51 PM

\$673 Housing Stipend Now Available to Online Students

Dear Veteran, Effective October 1, 2011, the Post - 9/11 GI Bill pays a housing stipend to students enrolled solely in online classes. The stipend is half the national average of BAH for an E-5 with dependents - \$673.50 per month for 2011.

In addition, the Post - 9/11 GI Bill provides up to 100% Coverage of Tuition and Fees. Take the next step and find Schools with VA Approved Programs - It's important to compare schools to find the one that best meets your specific needs.

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION

for Children and Youth Programs

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.

I was asked what this fund is used for. In short: our adopted 4th grade class, where most of the children have special needs and come from very poor families; savings bonds for the winners of the coloring contests; High School students who are sent to Badger Boys State, (we sponsored four (4) this past summer), and savings bonds to the young men who attended Badger Boys State and then come to the Post and tell us about their experience; sponsorship to Scouts who ask us for help. This fund can be used to give a savings bond to the winner of a student who is sponsored by the Todd Post for the Oratorical Contest. This fund is for Children and Youth programs that are sponsored by the American Legion.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Gretchen Davis

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES AND INCIDENTS OF OUR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE GREAT WARS

As November 11th, approaches, remember the incidents that instigated "Veteran's Day". Remember those left fatherless and widowed; for they made a great sacrifice also, they had to persevere without their loved one. Turn to your neighbor and thank them for serving in the past; thank them for continuing to serve America by their involvement in our Legion Family.

If you have the ability, coordinate with a school in your neighborhood or where you had or still have family attending that school, to visit a classroom just so those children and teens can put a face to the concept of Veteran's Day. If a teacher will allow you to come in and talk about what the Flag means to America, or what serving your country meant to you, please take the time to do this. So many of our young people do not know that what all Veterans have done, has allowed them to be free; to attend school, to wear what they want (with parental guidance) and the list goes on. Sometimes, "we" forget just how fortunate we are to be able to vote as we please, to think as we please without fear of imprisonment. "We" are fortunate because of all of us, and for what we have all done in serving our Country.

Let us bring to the forefront of current events that there are people involved in our history, not just chapters in a book!

To all of you in our Legion Family: Thank you for being there!!! Thank you for serving in the past, present and future.

3RD VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Jim Marinkovich

Our Patriotic Coloring Contest is in full swing, at one of our local schools. The children really enjoy this contest and the top two winners in each grade level receive a Savings Bond.

We are also in swing with gathering school supplies for our adopted 4th Grade Class at Manitoba School. We will be visiting the class on November 11, 2011. At that time, we will also be giving the students a presentation on the American Flag, and each student will receive a flag.

It is not too early to start asking High School Students to participate in the Legion Oratorical Contest to be held the end of January 2012. If you have a son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, or a friend's child who is in High School, and would like to participate in the Oratorical Contest, please have him or her contact me as soon as possible. Scholarships are awarded to winners on several levels.

FUND RAISING

Chairperson Gretchen Davies

Because of the present economy the Post Fund Raising committee has decided to just focus on the Gatorade Drive for the Troops, and the Annual Smoker, to be held March 2, 2012.

Please mark your calendar: the "planning" committee for the 2012 Smoker will meet on November 21, 2011, at 6:00 pm. All members of the Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L., who wish to attend this meeting are welcome.

Note: for newer members and for members who have been unable to attend Post meetings and functions, are you aware that the Auxiliary and S.A.L. actively help us with the Annual Smoker? We thank them. The Auxiliary and S.A.L. are here to serve Veterans, Veterans Families, and the Post they are associated with, and Unit 537, and Squadron 537, are serving us well.

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

Mark Sandow - 3rd Vice Commander

State Vice Commander Wayne Jensen has been endorsed by his Post (Police Post 415) and the Mighty 4th District for the position of Department Commander. As such, he is encouraging all members who have not yet paid their dues to consider paying up as soon as possible. As of mid-September, the 4th District was in 9th place statewide, with 62.40 % of

membership paid up. Granted, it's better than being at the bottom, but not as good as 1st place.

The 4th District donated \$250.00 towards the Gatorade Drive for the Troops, sponsored in part by the Todd Post.

The 4th District Executive Board appointed 1st Vice Commander John Edelblute interim 4th District Commander. He will run meetings in the absence of 4th District Commander Clinton Chrisman until such time it is determined Clinton will be unable to continue in his position due to cancer, or recover and be able to resume his duties. I am trying to organize a blood drive for Clinton. Will let you know the particulars at a later date. Meanwhile, if you donate blood, please ask that the blood be donated for Clinton Chrisman. Clinton has already had to have several transfusions.

The next meeting of the Mighty 4th District will be the Fall Conference held at Greendale Post 416, 63rd and Grange starting at 7:00 pm. Note the time change. All Legion members are welcome to attend all District meetings.

That's all for now. I hope to see you around the Post.

BLOOD PRESSURE STUDY

Robert Fyfe and Gretchen Davies
Blood Pressure Leaders

Even though the VA's POWER program has officially ended, our Legion Post's involvement in the POWER program will continue! The POWER (Posts Working for VetERans Health) Program is a study which compares two ways to help people learn how to control their high blood pressure. As part of this study, and even now that the study is complete, Gretchen and/or I are required to give a short presentation at every Legion Meeting - each on a variety of topics.

As you know, our Post participated in Dr. Whittle's POWER Program. POWER was designed to help us learn more about high blood pressure and ways to control it. The people at the VA gave us blood pressure cuffs, pedometers, and a scale as well

as lots of information about blood pressure, healthy eating, exercise, and medical treatments. Several of you volunteered to be in a study to see if this did any good. We recently met with the Doctors who led this study and learned about the results.

Again, thanks for your continued participation and support in the POWER program.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

AUXILIARY UNIT 537
Wednesday October 19, 2011
Fashion Fair - 6:30 pm
Style Show - 7:00 pm

Jewelry Displays, Fashions, Raffles, Refreshments.

Fashions provided by: Dressbarn, Johnson Creek
Hair and Make-up for models provided by:
Splash Hair Design & Spa

Tickets are \$7.00, or \$5.00 in advance.

Please contact
Sue Middlestead
414-545-2727
jmiddlestead@wi.rr.com
for tickets or additional information.

INTIMIDATIONS TO JOIN THE AUXILIARY

Mothers, Daughters, Granddaughters, Grandmothers, Wives, Sister, greatheartedness and female Veterans are invited to join the American Legion Auxiliary. This group is the largest female Veterans support organization in the world. Their goal is to serve Veterans, and Veterans programs, to assist the Legion in all Programs of the American Legion.

Dues for Unit 537 are \$18.00. Please remember that the Veteran under whose name you sign up, must be an eligible Veteran under the American Legion dates which are under the guidelines of the United States Congress. Contact Vi Kaun for more information and applications at 414-525-1025 or email Vi: rkaun@wi.rr.com.

AARP

Attention all Veterans
November is Veterans Month
Take the Course at no charge

This includes widows, widowers, spouses
and children.

The AARP Driver Safety Program Class

- .. is the nation's first and largest improvement course designed for drivers 50 and older.
- .. is open to AARP members and non-members alike
- .. no tests are given
- .. presented in a 4 hour classroom setting
- .. upon completion of the course, each attendee is awarded a certificate

Those above 55 - whether AARP members or not - may qualify for a worthwhile multi-year auto insurance discount by completing this course. (Please check with your insurance company for the exact discount and the correct procedure to obtain it.)

The Todd Post is sponsoring this program on the following dates in November.

Dates are: Monday November 14th and
Monday November 28, 2011
9:00 am - 1:00 pm or
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

To sign up, please contact
Judy A Grzegorski
(you can leave a voice mail message).
414-651-5544 or email Judy: jagsafety@ww.rr.com

We will also have a sign up sheet at the Meeting on October 4th.

These classes will be held in Cramer Hall at the Post. Reservations are needed, so that Judy has all the necessary materials for members attending.

DISCOVER THE MAKING OF AMERICA

A Learning experience that your family will never forget.

Saturday November 12, 2011

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

American Legion Post 27

920 Monroe Ave, So Milwaukee, WI 53172

Please call to confirm attendance: 414-423-9203

8:30 am - 12:00 noon

“Developing America’s Great Success Formula”

An exciting exploration which Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Washington and others made in order to rediscover the key to the creation of the first free nation in modern times. We’ll trace their adventure for 1400 B.C. to 1787 A.D.

12:00 noon - 12:45 - Lunch Break

12:45 - 4:30 pm - “The Perfect Plan of Liberty”

A refreshing look at the solid political and economic principles from the preamble through the amendments to the Constitution. You’ll learn perhaps for the first time, how nearly every problem in America today can be solved by restoring these successful concepts.

Your family will see, hear, and learn with exciting, unforgettable stories, using a fill-in-the-blank study guide that will be a lasting treasure for further study for years to come.

Registration is \$20 a person; \$30 for a couple, and includes a guide and breakfast snack. Space is limited, and registration is due no later than October 27, 2011. Please make checks to the above address and make payable to American Legion Post 27.

This day is devoted to a non-partisan approach to understand the creation of the first free Nation in modern times, and the principles behind our Constitution.

Registration forms and more information can be found at www.smlegion.org. Please share with your Legion Family.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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3rd Vice Jim Marinkovich
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Chaplain Gretchen Davies
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Adjutant Mark Sandow
4th District, 3rd Chair
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House Committee:
Wally Pufahl - 414-541-0497
Doug Kueny - 414-425-0059
Brian Duerr - 414-541-7703

Unit President Sue Middlestead
414-545-2727
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S.A.L. Squadron Commander
Robert Sirovia Jr.
414-321-1479
durango1.wi.rr.com

MEMORIAL DAY 2012

Seems like this is eons away, however planning for activities is always necessary far in advance of an event.

We would like to have our members in the Memorial Day Parade. If you can't march, arrangements must be made in advance for riding in a bus, or in cars. As with all parades, it takes a long time to plan for the parade itself.

Do you know a scouting group who would like to march in the West Allis Memorial Day Parade? Do you have children, grandchildren, etc, who would desire to march alongside the Legion members. All this needs to be known in advance.

All of the Legion Family is welcome to march in the parade, this includes are Junior Auxiliary and younger S.A.L. members.

Please see Adjutant Mark Sandow at a membership meeting or contact him via e-mail or phone, to let him know if you or someone in your family wants to participate. We often think this is restricted to only a Legion member, but this is not factual.

As we get closer to Memorial Day, we will have sign up sheet at a Post Meeting, at the Sgt-at-Arms table for all Legion Family Members who wish to participate.

This does not end with the parade, as each year there is a Formal Flag Disposal Ceremony in

the Post Parking Lot. If you have never attended one of these ceremonies you have ready missed a great function of the American Legion. Everyone is welcome to attend.

If you have a flag that needs to be retired please bring it to the Post, or contact a Post Officer to make arrangements for it to be picked up. The American Flag is NEVER to be thrown in the garbage. We follow the flag code for proper disposal.

And not to be forgotten, is our Annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, which is prepared by our Sons of the American Legion Squadron, and served by our Auxiliary Ladies (and several of our Post members). This is always held in Cramer Hall. The omelets are out of this world. So, mark your calendars now for Memorial Day 2012.

SMOKER 2012

Working backwards - March 2, 2012 is our Annual Smoker (Card Party) in Cramer Hall at the Post. Card games of your choice, bring your family, buddies, etc. And if you do not play cards, how about Dominos? Again, our SAL Squadron is in the kitchen, our Auxiliary helps on the floor with raffles, and our members help in many different areas.

So, if you don't play games, can you give a couple of hours of your time to help. Donations for raffle items are always appreciated. Contact Gretchen Davies to arrange for pickup of donations, if you cannot bring them to the Post.



**SON'S OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION
SQUADRON 537**

Annual Halloween Dance
Saturday October 29th
7:00 pm - midnight
Music by Night Train

Squadron 537 will host their annual Halloween Dance and Costume Party on October 29th in Cramer Hall.

Come and join us for an enjoyable evening. Admission is \$10.00 per person. Admission includes snacks and Beverages. We will also have a number of raffles. Prizes for best costumes. Costumes are not required but are fun to see (and wear).

Night Train will entertain you with a blend of oldies rock and country and newer rock and country.

Bring your spouse, friends, relatives, neighbors and anyone else you think might want to come to our Party.

Did you know that Squadron 537 has been busy with Community Service?

On September 18th, Squadron 537 helped the Vernon Fire Department with the annual Fire Department Fund Raiser. How? The Fire Department had pancakes and sausage, and the Squadron came to help them and made their "Famous" omlets. Good job gentlemen.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday - November 13, 2011
Pancake and sausage breakfast at post
8:00 am - 11:00 am
VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY
for All Veterans - noon - 4:00 pm
Refreshment - Snacks
Benefit Information Available
A Time to Visit with other Veterans

The HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION is running a special program to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11. From 11 Sep 11 through Veteran's Day (11 Nov 11).

Home Depot is offering to conduct work projects on military members' Personal homes.

Home Depot will provide the materials, labor and contractors. Projects will include repairs and installations. If there are any questions, please make contact through the website below.

The priority is as follows:

- ** Wounded warriors returning from combat & disabled veterans
- ** Members returning from deployment
- ** Members with special needs (either themselves or family members)
- ** All others

FOR information visit

<http://homedepotfoundation.org/>

John L. Dyess
Army Reserve Ambassador
President, East Tennessee Military Affairs Council
Area Chair, Employer Support for the Guard & Reserve

TAPS

Floyd Albright
August 25, 2011
Army - WWII



We extend our sympathy to his family.
May he rest in peace in the Arms of the Great Commander.

