



# The Todd Tattler



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Todd Post Website: [www.toddpost537.org](http://www.toddpost537.org)



## COMMANDERS CORNER

By the time you get this edition of the Todd Tattler, it will be fall. I would like to say thank you to those who attended the Legion Picnic, Corn Roast, and / or the Octoberfest celebrations. I invite all of you to help support our Sons of American Legion by attending their Halloween Dance on Saturday, October 31, 2009.

We had our first membership meeting from our summer break on September 1st. If you were unable to attend, I hope you will make plans to attend our October 6th meeting. I know there are members who do not know me, and I look forward to meeting you.

Post Everlasting will be held at the November 3, 2009 meeting. I would appreciate the help of our Past Post Commanders with the ceremony. Invitations to the families of our deceased comrades will be sent by our Post Adjutant. This is a very moving ceremony and a way to honor our members who have gone to the Great Commander since November 2008.

We are starting to plan a Children's Christmas party to be held the afternoon of December 12th. Help for this event will be needed. More information will be in the

November issue of the Tattler.

The Post / Auxiliary / S.A.L Adult Christmas Party will be held the evening of December 12th. We will be having a dinner, followed by a dance. Anyone with suggestions or willing to help plan the parties, please contact me or 2nd Vice Grant Nothnagel.

November 11, 2009 is Veterans Day. This is also the day we are holding our drawing for our Children, Youth and Veteran Benefit Fund. You still have time to help support these programs. Tickets are \$25.00. They are available at the bar and also at our meetings.

As always, if you have any concerns or suggestions regarding the Post, please feel free to contact me or any other Post Officer. Also if you know anyone eligible to join the American Legion, please talk with them about joining our Post. See you at the October 6, 2009 meeting.

Commander Brian Duerr  
414-541-770 [brianduerr@hotmail.com](mailto:brianduerr@hotmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As I write this article, I want to thank the 215 members who have paid their dues for 2010. This brings us to 66.9 % of our membership paid. This is great. Thank you. Now I have to ask that the remainder of our members submit your dues

## HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

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. But - that means that I need to have your dues by October 30th, in order to have the dues to State and National on time.

Please note that if you take advantage of the new program and pay online with National Headquarters, you can only pay \$35.00. Reduced dues for members who are retired with 10 years in the Post cannot be paid online. Also, please note that as this program gets started it is taking several weeks for the information to get back to the Post. I will mail your membership card as soon as we received notice that your dues have been paid online.

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS, please email, or call me and advise if you are on active duty. All of our members who are currently serving our nation and protecting all of us, get an American Flag next to their name on the Membership Board. Paid members have a red dot, but we feel that if you are on Active Duty you need to be honored by this simple gesture. It is our way of publicly thanking you volunteering to serve in today's military. (If I know the branch you are in - we can note that on the membership board also). Note that the membership board has last names and first initial only, to protect privacy.

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

The remodeling project for next year is moving forward with the Committee accepting bids for various steps in the project. Remember that if you have suggestions regarding the Hall remodeling to put them in writing and give them to the House Committee, or talk with one of the House Committee, or remodeling Committee members about your ideas. We are open to positive and creative suggestions. This is YOUR Post, and each of us have a right to make suggestions to improve the Post. Once we finalize plans and sign contracts, your suggestions will be too late. We hope to have all plans ready to go by the beginning of 2010, so please talk to us. It is disheartening to finish a project and then hear that someone had a suggestion that could have benefited all of us.

We hope that everyone had the chance to enjoy themselves at the annual Oktoberfest celebration held on Saturday the 26th.

We have negotiated a new contract with Clear Channel Outdoor, for the billboard located on the property. Hope to see everyone at our next membership meeting in October.

Committee Chairman Dave Wischer

### REQUESTS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED OVERSEAS

This past week, four "We Care" packages were sent to deployed Todd Post Active Duty people. Two recipients of the last set of packages are back on U.S. soil so we can all be grateful for their safe return. As always, we want to be kept aware of any changes and address, or Active Duty members who are being deployed, so that our records are current and packages are not lost in the shuffle. When you are deployed please provide Linda Pfeiffer (our editor) with a stateside address, so that she can mail your copy

of the Tattler to your family for forwarding. If you are able to receive a PDF file, you may email Linda and she can send you a copy of the Tattler via the internet. Linda's email address is: waltnlindapfeiffer@sbcglobal.net.

To each of our active duty members: if you need or want any specific items in packages please contact the service officer or me directly. One of our members asked for coffee, as that is apparently hard to get where he is deployed. It was really enjoyed by the member and his friends. Please note that you can contact us through the Post 537 website.

To the remainder of our members: please recall your own active duty. Remember how important ANY letters and / or packages from home were. Give generously so that packages can be sent more often; especially with Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving & Christmas right around the corner. We have received a request for small portable games, such as checkers, skipbo, uno, etc. Our deployed military have down time, and the games are a pleasant way to pass the time. We have even sent "Old Maid" card games and have received thank you letters for the treat of childhood memories. Often times, these items are given to the children in the area that military are serving in, as a goodwill gesture for the children.

To all members: please keep each other in your prayers; especially those who are ill, injured, or suffering family or financial difficulties. Bear in mind that the Service Officer or Chaplain are available to help find assistance as needed.

Our Legion community is part of the foundation of family. We all need each other, and that was one of the reasons this organization was founded. Keep us strong with your support.

Chaplain Gretchen Davies - 414-227-4301

## SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

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. We have a group of Post Members who are willing to honor your loved one at his / her funeral. However, if we do not know that your loved one has passed into the arms of the Great Commander we cannot be there to honor him / her. If there are any other questions please let me know. My contact information is at the end of the article.

With all the talk of Health Care Reform, I thought that I would pass the below info along to everyone. The VA Benefits that you may receive will be affected by the proposed reform.

### **White House Says VA Health Care Will Not be Affected by Health Care Reform**

August 4, 2009. After a short discussion about concerns of health care reform and its potential effect on VA health care and TRICARE with NAUS President Bill Matz and Legislative Director Rick Jones at the new GI Bill roll-out ceremony at George Mason University on August 3rd, White House Director of Veterans and Wounded Warrior Policy, Matthew Flavin, followed up and forwarded this statement from the White House:

"Please know that the President is committed to ensuring that the Department of Veterans Affairs provides America's veterans the highest-quality health care possible. His budget requests the largest single-year increase in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs in three decades, and significantly expands coverage, extending care to 500,000 more veterans who were previously excluded.

Health reform will only build on the President's commitment to veterans' health care.

The VA Healthcare system will continue to be available for all eligible veterans. Also, veterans and their families will have additional choices for high-quality, affordable health care, with consumer protections that prevent insurance companies from denying coverage or setting a limit on the coverage they will provide.

The health reform legislation that the House of Representatives is considering would enable those who are covered by VA care, including dependents of certain veterans enrolled in the CHAMPVA program, to meet the individual responsibility mandate; thereby exempting such veterans and dependents from being assessed penalties. If enacted, the President will ensure that this exemption is implemented aggressively. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs would continue to maintain sole authority over the system and for enhancing the quality and access for all eligible veterans."

If you have recently lost your job and health insurance benefits, please contact the Zablocki VA Medical Center to make an appointment to see if you meet the eligibility requirements for VA Health Care. The rules have changed and the Category Eight (8) field is now open for application for Veterans. Please be sure to take a copy of your discharge papers with you when you apply for care.

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

## **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 "Herbs, Vitamins & Dietary Supplements" & "Taking Medicines". Here's a brief explanation of the topics to be presented:

### **HERBS, VITAMINS & DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS**

Most of us know someone who takes a handful of pills from a health food store. Maybe you do!! Just like prescription medicines, supplements have their own set of potential side effects. Often your doctor can be a useful source of advice. Even if you find they don't like you taking anything other than a prescription medication, it is best that they know what you take. Gretchen and I think YOU ought to know about your supplements, just like you know about your medicines. Unfortunately, most of the information on the Internet and in the newspapers is put there by people trying to sell their own products. Gretchen and I will give you some tips about how to get the best possible information on taking over the counter medications.

### **TAKING MEDICINES**

Can you take all your blood pressure pills at once? Do some pills counteract others? What is the best time of the day to take your pills? What is this business about grapefruit juice? At the next post meeting we will go over these and other questions about taking medicine. We will also give out weekly pill reminders, which are one of the best ways to know if you really are as good about taking your pills as you think you are!!! Dr. Whittle says that researchers find that many - maybe most - people on chronic medications miss at least 1 dose a week. How do you know?

You have probably noticed that even though the POWER Program is focused on high blood pressure, most of the things we talk about are useful for people with many chronic conditions, or for people who are fine now and want to stay that way. So come prepared to learn, even if you don't have high blood pressure!

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

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

### HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. Operation Desert Storm began its ground war in Kuwait on February 24, 1991. How long did it last?

- a. 4 days                      b. 4 months                      c. 1 year

2. Who is credited with rescuing seven (7) people during his career as a life guard?

- a. John F. Kennedy                      b. Ronald Reagan  
c. George W. Bush

3. Which President climbed the Matterhorn in Switzerland while on his honeymoon.

- a. Harry Truman                      b. Teddy Roosevelt  
c. Dwight Eisenhower

4. Which President did Dr. Seymour Hersh state that he treated for chlamydia and other STD's?

- a. Bill Clinton                      b. Franklin D Roosevelt  
c. John F Kennedy

5. Who was the only President to have earned a P.H.D.?

- a. Thomas Jefferson                      b Woodrow Wilson  
c. William Taft

### CHILDREN - YOUTH - VETERANS FUND RAISER

Here we go again. It seems that every time that we have a fund raiser and sell tickets everyone waits to the last minute to purchase a ticket. I know that times are tough, but we have all seen tougher times. Get together with a friend, family member or a Legion post member and split the cost if you can't afford a ticket yourself. We need to sell enough tickets to make this a success. If we sell all 537 tickets a person has almost a 1 in 10 chance of winning one of the 50 cash prizes. First place wins \$2500. The lowest amount one can win is \$50. Several of our Post Members were lucky and won at the last Drawing on Memorial Day.

We have requests for funds that the committee recommended for expenditure to the Executive Board. The requests will be presented to the Membership for approval at the October Membership Meeting.

Being able to receive funds for all 537 tickets will open up the Children, Youth, and Local Veterans Fund to more programs. Limited Funds are still available. Please put requests in writing and give them to me or drop them off at the Post: Attention Fund Raiser Committee. We will meet to discuss the requests as soon as we can.

Thank you again for your support of this program

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 hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Summer. It just seemed to go by too fast. I now have a new position as 4th District Vice-Commander in addition to being Post Historian. I will be passing on information we get from National, Department and District as well as other Posts as needed. 4th District Commander Wayne Jensen wants to thank everyone who helped out with the 2009 State Convention here in Milwaukee. This was the first District run Convention, and it was a huge success. Special thanks to members of the Auxiliary and S.A.L. for their extra efforts.

The 1st, 4th and 5th Districts will be holding a joint American Legion Extension Course Seminar here at the Todd Post on Saturday, October 10th, 2009 from 10 am - 2 pm. If you are interested in learning more about the American Legion, its' history, its' programs and how it may speak for you in Washington, D.C., then consider coming to this Seminar. The cost of \$20.00 covers the course materials and a working lunch. Graduates will receive a certificate and pin. Contact Wayne Jensen at 414-353-1096 or wswfty@aol.com no later than October 5th to reserve a spot. Wayne needs an accurate count for the Seminar. Fees may be paid on October 10th.

Did you know you can attend a District meeting as a non-voting member? Besides your Commander, Adjutant, and elected delegates, you may attend a District meeting. And, you may also sign up to receive a monthly District Newsletter. If interested, let me know and I will pass it on to the Powers that be.

The 4th District Fall Conference will be held on Wednesday October 21st, 7 pm, at South Milwaukee Post 27, located at 920 Monroe Ave., South Milwaukee.

The Veterans' Day Parade will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 9:00 am in downtown Milwaukee. Anyone wanting to march is welcome to join the parade.

Lastly, if you have any questions that you would normally ask Department for an answer, please consider asking 4th district Commander Wayne Jensen first. If he doesn't have an answer, he'll get it for you.

If there's something I can do for you either as Post Historian or 4th District VC, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks for your support.

Mark Sandow  
Post Historian and  
4th District Vice-Commander  
414-545 0409- Home  
414-418-0993-Cell

## AUXILIARY NEWS

There are still a few seats available for the Bus Trip to the Oneida Casino on Monday, October 19th. Contact Vi Kaun at 414-525-1028 for information.

Our Fall Fashion Fair will be held on Wednesday, November 4th in the Post's Memorial Hall. Fashion Fair opens at 6:30 pm with the Style Show beginning at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance and \$7.00 at the door. Contact Audrey McClain at 414-541-9622 to purchase tickets.

Plans are under way for our Annual Holiday Craft Fair on November 21st. We still need crafters so if you know anyone that would like to sell their hand-made items at our show, please contact Sue Middlestead at 414-545-2727 as soon as possible.

National Convention is now history but I would like to share some information with you.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 POST CLEANUP WORK CREW -- Tables and parking lot work
4	5	6 SAL Meeting Blood Pressure Screening Post Membership Meeting	7 War on Terror Began	8	9	10 Legion Ext Course Training - Todd Post
11	12 Columbus Day	13 US Navy Est 1775 House Committee Meeting	14	15	16 Department Fall Meetings	17 Department Fall Meetings
18 US Arm Reserve 84th Div Reunion	19 Auxiliary Oneida Bus Trip	20 Auxiliary Meeting Ex Bd Meeting	21 4th District Fall Conference	22	23	24 United Nations Day
25	26	27 VFW Meeting Navy Day	28 County Council Meeting	29	30	31 SAL Halloween Dance

## WORK CREW HELP NEEDED

On Saturday, October 3rd at 8:00 am we will meet at the Post to take the tables from the Hall outside, and scrub them down, dry them off and return them to the hall. Cleaning the tables is essential at least once each year.

We will also be putting bark along the east side of the property along the fence line.

Of course, this is weather permitting, but the more help we have the faster these two projects can be done. If you have a few hours to spare, please come help us. If we do not have enough help we will have to complete the projects on Sunday the 4th of October.

House Committee Personnel

## NEWSLETTER SPONSORS NEEDED

Do you have your own company? Do you work for a company that would like to help the Post defray the costs of publishing the Todd Tattler? Cost of an ad (as shown below is \$25.00 per month. (We publish eleven issues a year). Please contact Editor Linda Pfeiffer at a meeting or call her at 262-784-2807, if you or someone you know is interested in advertising with us. Thank you.

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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2006-2007 Past State Commander  
Charles Cooney

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### Dated Material

April Kollmorgen won the Betty Burdett National Press Book award for the best press book in the nation, the National Award for the Best Department Website, and the R C Cann Plaque from the National American Legion Press Association for the Unit 537 Auxiliary News. Diana Sirovina won the Toomey Trophy for the best Department History in the nation. Please join me in congratulating our members on their prestigious National Awards.

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

### HARV'S QUIK QUIZ ANSWERS

1. a. 4 days Note: President Bush called for a cease fire on February 27th, 1991, ending the Gulf War.
2. b. Ronald Reagan
3. b. Teddy Roosevelt
4. c. John F Kennedy
5. b. Woodrow Wilson

### 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 6, 2009.

We are sad to report the passing of S.A.L. member Berent E. Simonson who was call to the Arms of the Lord on September 2, 2009. We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

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

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TAPS



We honor all those who have gone before us into the arms of the Great Commander of us all. May all the departed rest in peace.

