

September 2011
Volume 4, Issue 2

Member of WALPA & NALPA

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

**DATES
TO REMEMBER**

COMMANDERS CORNER

Commander Walter Pfeiffer

- September 6, 2011
6:30 pm
S.A.L. Membership Mtg
...
- September 6, 2011
7:30 pm
Membership Meeting
...
- September 13, 2011
5:30 pm
House Committee Mtg
...
- September 19, 2011
6:00 pm
Veterans Day Planning Mtg
...
- September 19, 2011
7:00 pm
Executive Board Mtg
...
- September 20, 2011
7:00 pm
Unit 537 Auxiliary Meeting
...
- September 21, 2011
7:30 pm
4th District Meeting
So. Milwaukee Post 27
...
- September 28, 2011
7:30 pm
Milwaukee County
Council Meeting (tba)
...
- September 24, 2011
Post "Pig" Roast

Thank you to all the members that helped with the Post Picnic, we had over 100 people in attendance. Our cooks did a great job and made sure that everyone was well fed. It takes a lot of time and effort to bring everything to the picnic site and then return everything to the Post. The people that helped are very dedicated Legion Family members.

The Post Corn Roast was held on August 13th. A lot of great corn and brats were eaten by everyone who braved the "refreshing" rain. Thank you to all the members and bar patrons who helped with setup and take down in the pouring rain.

For those members who have submitted their 2012 dues, thank you very much. If you have not remitted your 2012 dues yet, please do so as soon as possible.

GATORADE DRIVE FOR THE TROOPS

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.

You may help with the drive in several ways. A donation of money (containers will be at the bar, and in some of the North Shore Banks. You may send a check or money order (payable to Post 537 - note for Gatorade), or you may purchase 20 oz. bottles (or smaller) or the boxes of powdered Gatorade and bring to the Post. There is a barrel in the Post Bar for donations. If you are unable to bring it to the Post, please contact Commander Pfeiffer, Chaplain Davies, or Service Officer Berg, and arrangements will be made to pick the donation at your home or business. This drive is starting immediately and will continue as long as we have troops in the field in combat areas. The big push is now, and will be highlighted with a "Veterans, Thank you for Serving" appreciation day on Sunday, November 13, 2011 at the Todd Post. This Appreciation day will begin with a Pancake and Sausage breakfast at \$5.00 per person (details to follow), and continue in the afternoon, with informational materials provided for Veterans Benefits, and information on the American Legion. We will have snacks and refreshments until 4:00 pm that afternoon. Thank you for helping our troops.

WHAT DOES THE TODD POST DO? (we know what the "Legion" does)

When we are recruiting new members, a question that is asked is: "What does the Todd Post do?" But, this question is not limited to "new members", as many of our "long time" members, have also asked this question.

As with all Legion Posts, we have a monthly membership meeting, September through June. Prior to and following the meetings we have time to meet with other post members and chat. After the meetings we have a light lunch and refreshments. This is called "social time". In December and May, we have a "Legion Family" dinner and dance. This is a time to chat with members of the Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L. their families and 'break bread' with them. In the summer we have a picnic, and a Corn Roast, and of course our annual Post Smoker (card party) in March. SO, here is your chance as a member to tell us what you would like to see the Todd Post do on a social level. Come to the September meeting, send a letter to the Post, send an email to a Post Officer, call a Post Officer, and let us know what type of social events you would like to see on a monthly basis. If we arrange for a Sunday afternoon for members (and family) to have a social event in the Post Hall, what would you like us to do? Board Games, cribbage, dominoes, card games, music or ? Other suggestions that have been made: a monthly dinner at nominal cost - be in spaghetti, or hot dogs, or sliced turkey, (something simple). We need your suggestions, and ideas. The Post hall is rented out to many different groups for showers, and various parties; so we need to "calendar" dates for Post Events. Please contact us; let us know what you want to see us do. The idea is to keep us active and in touch with each other. Since we have many members who cannot, or choose not to drive at night, we are looking at Sunday afternoons. Communication is key to getting social events up and running.

It has been suggested that we sponsor a "paint ball league". If you are interested in that type of activity, get your team together and let the Post Commander know what the cost of sponsorship is, and it will be taken to the Executive Board for discussion. In years past the Post has sponsored

bowling leagues, softball leagues, etc. These leagues fell by the wayside because the Post members who were on these leagues, were no longer able to participate. This does not mean we cannot sponsor the "more physically active" members who wish to participate on a sports league. But, you have to let us know you want to do this.

AGAIN, please give us your suggestions. No, we will not have rocking chairs for the "rockers" of our Post, but we do have comfortable chairs in the hall. We are here to "serve Veterans" but if we are not aware of what you want, we cannot serve you.

Remember that this is "our" post, and all of us have a voice. Also remember that the Legion is also very active in Children and Youth Activities. We sponsor several boys to Badger Boys State, a coloring contest for grade school students, we meet with our "adopted" 4th grade class at Manitoba School, and help them with school supplies and let them know what a Veteran is, what Veterans do, as well as teaching them about the Flag. We support our active duty troops. We help Veterans with questions about their benefits. We honor our deceased members. We support Veterans with "gift baskets", and we support Camp American Legion, with donations of needed items. We also have a Poppy Fund, from which donations are given to many different Veterans programs. We are busy, we do need additional hands and time for Poppy distribution (and sitting on a chair is acceptable when distributing Poppies". Our "aluminum can drive" funds are for Children and Youth Programs. We would like to start a "book scholarship" fund, but this requires help from many different areas, donations given toward this is acceptable, but if everyone would "recycle" their Aluminum cans with the Todd Post, we could earmark money raised from recycling to a "Book Scholarship" fund. Anyone have any other ideas?

I know this is a long article, but please know that when we have our Executive Board meetings we talk about what members tell us. We are listening, but we are not hearing "concrete" ideas. We also need help from other members with activities. What we hear is "what does the Post do". We are asking you what do you want us to do?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1st Vice Linda Pfeiffer

We are doing great with our 2012 dues renewals. We are currently at 202 members and have several new members and transfers to be voted upon at the September Meeting. Thank you to all who have sent in your dues. I would love to have us at 100% by the end of September. Just think, I would not have to write these notes - that ask for money, if those of you who have not paid would do so.

Our goal has been lowered to 293 members for 2012, so we are not that far away. However, due to the loss of so many members to the Great Commander, we all need to try to recruit new members. So, I need your help. If you know an eligible Veteran, please ask him / her to join the American Legion. Many times, we find that a Veteran simply has not been asked. If you need information on what the American Legion does, the National and State American Legion has lots of information on what we "as a Legion" do for Veterans and their families. If you need a extra Todd Tattler to give to the person you are asking to join, call me and I will mail an additional one to you, or give me their address and I will send an "Invitation Letter" along with a newsletter and other Legion Information. We need to grow, as a Legion, to continue to protect the benefits and rights of all Veterans.

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 September 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.

2ND VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Vice Brian Duerr

Thank you to all the members of the Legion Family who helped at the Post Picnic. Thank you to all who attended. We had a good turn out, wonderful food and a good time.

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 September 6, 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.

Our main fundraiser for the Veterans or Military is in the planning stage , probably a Christmas time program. We will keep you posted.

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.

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.

HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. Approximately how many amputations were performed during the Civil War?
a. 20,000 b. 40,000 c. 60,000
2. How many women secretly fought as soldiers during the Civil War?
a. zero b. Less than 400 c. More than 400
3. What State provided the granite for every Headstone in Arlington National Cemetery?
a. New Hampshire b. Vermont c. Connecticut
4. Where was America's 1st organized rodeo held, July 4, 1869?
a. Deertrail, Co b. Tombstone, AZ
c. Dodge City, KS
5. Home mail delivery began July 1st of what year?
a. 1863 b. 1883
c. 1903
6. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns?
a. 12 b. 21 c. 32

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Gretchen Davis

"For God & Country we associate ourselves together", The Preamble lists all the important reasons for Legionnaires to stand together. No one is more important than any other, but let's focus on "to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness". Many members of our Post, even long term members, feel like outsiders. Please look around you at the next meeting. Sit next to someone you never sat next to previously. Chat, it doesn't matter the topic (well, o.k., not too much political talk in this day and age!). Make sure that each person attending has a reason to return to the next meeting. Let our Post members become our "friends". Friends stay in touch with each other and

won't be embarrassed to ask for, accept or give help when needed. Let's reignite the concept that an American Legion Post is a fun place to be.

3RD VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Jim Marinkovich

We will again have a Patriotic Coloring Contest at one of our local schools again this fall. The children really enjoy this contest and the top two winners in each grade receive a Savings Bond.

We are also in swing with gathering school supplies for our adopted 4th Grade Class at Manitoba School. When we go deliver the items to the students, we will be talking to them about what the Flag of the United States stands for.

It is not ever 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 friends child who is in High School, who would like to participate in the Oratorical Contest, please have him or her contact me as soon as possible. The speech is always on some facet of the Constitution or Bill of Rights. We do not know the subject matter at this point. Why should they participate? Savings Bonds, and Scholarships are the rewards for their efforts. College and Technical Schools are expensive, and if they participate the American Legion may be able to help toward their school expenses. Sadly, many young people do not try and miss out on an opportunity to receive help. The 2011 Winner of the National Contest received an \$18,000 Scholarship on the National Level, not to mention what she received at the Local and State Levels. Opportunity awaits.

POPPY DISTRIBUTION AT MILLER PARK SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011

Chairperson Robert Sirovia JR - S.A.L

We wish to thank the members of the Legion Family and friends who helped with the Poppy Distribution at Miller Park on August 14, 2011. While it would have been nice to have more people, the people who turned out did a fantastic job. The funds raised for Poppies will be distributed for Veterans and Veterans sponsored programs.

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.

To fill idle time the committee will assist the 1st & 2nd Vice Commanders as they organize a few family events. Some of these adventurous affairs might have a raffle or two available during the event itself, but the main focus of each occasion will be "getting together" with the different generations and branches of Legion Family.

Back to the Smoker: it is never too early to start thinking about raffle items. While cleaning & down-sizing, think of the Legion before you discard gently used tools or books, DVD's or music C.D.'s, as they can be used for the fish bowl. (If we cannot use the items for the fish bowl, we may be able to send them to our troops overseas. Last year we had some great prizes that were found at "buy one, get one" sales or were "free after rebate" from local hardware stores. As always, any and all contributions are welcome. Nothing will go to waste! Notify me for pick up if you do not want to store items until early March 2012!!! I can be reached at 414-731-8240.

4TH DISTRICT NEWS

Mark Sandow - 3rd Vice Commander

Well, here we are back in the swing of things after a really busy summer season. We attended the Post Picnic and the Corn Roast. The food was really good at both events and you know I do like to eat. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make these events successful!

Newly elected 4th District Commander Clinton Chrisman has been under medical care again for cancer. Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers.

A Veterans' Career Fair will be held at the VA Medical Center, 5000 W. National, Rm. 3435, on Friday, September 9, 2011, from 9am - 12 noon. Contact your Milwaukee County Veteran Service

Officer for more info.

The next meeting of the Mighty 4th District will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at 7:30 pm at Post 27 in South Milwaukee. You do not have to be a delegate to attend these meetings as all Legionnaires are invited.

That's all for now. Hope to see you 'round the Post.

POST CORN ROAST RAFFLE WINNERS

Post Manager - Julie

\$250.00	#610	Chet Wnuk
\$150.00	#539	Jeff Koceja
\$100.00	#379	Mike Mason
Brewers Package	#1362	John Schultz
Korbel Bottle & Tee	#828	Mike Mason
Korbel Bottle & Tee	#401	S. Hanson
Miller Lite Package	#1296	Steve Brady
Miller Lite Package	#463	Andy Kozenieeld
Miller Lite Package	#684	Bob S. Jr
Jeremiah Weed Pkg	\$1316	Nancy Branski
Vodka & Tee	#566	Pampeech
Vodka & Tee	\$227	Bob S. Jr
Vodka & Tee	#1378	Debbie Duerr
Wine & Tee	#301	Nanette Miller
Wine & Tee	#1386	Karleen Breg
Wine & Tee	#1309	Darlene Polenc
Blackberry Brandy & Tee	#291	Jean Cooney
Blackberry Brandy & Tee	#341	Debbie Dropp
Blackberry Brandy % Tee	#1158	Bob Martinez
Apple Pucker & Tee	#117	John Schultz
Apple Pucker & Tee	#549	Andy Niehoff
Apple Pucker & Tee	#976	Gordy Grouse
Crown Royal, Tee & Hat	#454	Andy Olejniczak
Crown Royal Tee & Hat	#195	Jenn Senner
Crown Royal Tee & Hat	#1109	Waldo
50/50		Bob Martinez

Thank you to all who purchased tickets, and came to the Corn Roast.

VOLUNTEER HOURS TO BE REPORTED TO THE AMERICAN LEGION

Please keep track of all your volunteer hours, and give that information to Adjutant Mark Sandow. These can be the hours you donated helping at the Picnic, Corn Roast, your local church, shopping for a neighbor, or cutting someones lawn (and the list goes on). Does not matter where you donated your time, all hours can be reported. Why? Every year when the National American Legion sits down with Congress, they give an Annual Report of Volunteer hours that the Legion Members have given to the Community, State, and Nation. The same is true with the Auxiliary and the Son's of the American Legion. This shows Congress, that although we are no longer on Active Duty in the Military, we are still serving this Great Nation. The more hours that are reported the more that Congress opens their ears to the needs of the Veterans and their families. The American Legion is a "National Family". We are a family with the Auxiliary and S.A.L, as all of us are dedicated to the needs of Veterans. So, again, please notify Mark of your volunteer hours. You can write those hours on a slip of paper and turn them in at a Monthly Meeting, or you can e-mail Mark. Let us show the "Legion Family" that the Todd Post Family members are "still serving".

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.

We will be presenting one topic at the September meeting: The Results of the Blood Pressure Study. Here's a brief explanation of the topic to be presented:

RESULTS OF THE BLOOD PRESSURE STUDY

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. At the next Membership meeting, we will talk about these results and how well the POWER program did or didn't do related to our Post's participation.

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

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

PS: From the Editor: There will be an award presentation at the September Membership from the VA, for Robert and Gretchen for their "facilitating" the Power Program at our Monthly Meetings, and in the Monthly newsletter. In addition Post 537 had the highest scores for coverage of the Power topics. The Auxiliary also participated in this program, and Sue Middlestead will also received an award. "GO - TODD POST." Good job, Robert, Gretchen and Sue.

Harv's Quik Quiz Answers

1. c. 60,000
2. c. more than 400
3. b. Vermont
4. a. Deertrail, CO.
5. a. 1863
note: it started with 450 letter carriers, many of whom were Civil War Veterans
6. b. 21
note: this is the number of shots in a formal salute

CONTACT INFORMATION

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9/11 ANNIVERSARY

Ladies and Gentlemen - I know it's hard to believe but next month is the anniversary of September 11, 2001, and the attack on America. Public and media interest has already begun and each of you has a story to share.

****Where were you when you heard the news?**

****How has your life changed?**

****How has the National Guard changed?**

****Did you join the military because of September 11th?**

****If you were already in the service, what did that day mean to you?**

****How did that day affect your military career?**

****Are you a family member of someone in the military?
(We want to hear your story too)**

Please consider sharing your story - by e-mailing 1SG Vaughn Larson (608-242-3056). Please tell us your story and include your name, e-mail and phone contact information as well as rank and unit if applicable. Also please let us know if you would be willing to be interviewed by civilian media outlets.

Thank you for your service and your consideration to share your story with others.

Sent on behalf of the
Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs Office by:
Jackie Guthrie
LTC, Wisconsin National Guard
Director of Public Affairs
Tel: 608-242-3050 (DSN 724.3050)
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OF THE DAYS GONE BY

Experience the heroine WWII tour of duty through the eyes of George Michel as he tells of the events as a POW after his B24 plane goes down in France. George, a resident of Regency New Berlin shares his exciting ventures that started on his 20th birthday as a radio operator/gunner on US B24 planes. A favorite for Veterans!

Refreshments will be served.

Please register by phone at the appropriate campus below.

Free gift to all US veterans who attend.

September 22nd , 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Regency - New Berlin
Regent's Club
Fieldpoint Entrance
13750 W National Ave
New Berlin, WI 53151
262-789-1699

September 26th, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Regency - Brookfield
Sentio Living South Campus
695 N Brookfield Rd
Brookfield, WI 53045
262-780-0321

September 29th, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Regency - Muskego
The Lodge
W181 S8540 Lodge Blvd
Muskego, WI 53150
262-679-0888





ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER PROFILE

A1C Joseph Hembrook, a member of our Post, recently graduated from Air Force Tech School with a perfect score. He was the first airman to attain such an honor in this particular school.

Joeeph attended RF transmission systems training. This is a newer tech school. A few years ago they combined several career fields into this school. He is currently in the 36 AES Aero Medical Evacuation Squadron which is attached to the 440th Airlift Wing.

We would like to feature information and pictures of our Active Duty (or reserve duty) members. If you have a story to share, please email, or mail a picture and an article about yourself, or if you are a family member, an article about your son / daughter for publication in the Tattler. We need to recognize the men and women who are dedicated to preserving our freedom. (Pictures are not required, but are nice to have.)

This column can also feature a Post Legion member who has a story to share from past conflicts, who is no longer serving on Active, or Reserve duty.

We thank everyone for serving our Country.

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

VETERANS CAREER FAIR

presented by
Milwaukee VA
in conjunction with
Milwaukee County Service Office
and DWD Office of Veteran Services

Friday, September 9, 2011
9:00 am - Noon

Location: Milwaukee VA Medical Center
5000 W National Ave Milwaukee, WI - Room 3435

Computer access provided in Building 4
(MCVSO)

For assistance with resume writing and
interviewing tips, contact:

Carl Fenner, Office of Veterans Services
401-750-2587

1915 N Martin Luther King Dr
carl.fenner@dwd.wisconsin.gov

There will be a number of local businesses
at the VA center for you to give a resume to, or
talk to.

No one wants a Veteran unemployed.
If you are unemployed, or under-employed,
please attend this Career Fair, or contact the
County Service Officer at 414-382-1753

TAPS



While they have left
us, to be with the
Great Commander,
they are never far
from our thoughts.

We thank them for
their service to our
Country.

