



POST 201 INFORMER

Grassman - Sowle - Larsen - Senz Post 201
Tomah, WI



VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1

1 Sept 2011

2010-2011 Legion Officers

Commander: Pete Peterson
Adjutant: Gloria Aarness
1st Vice: Todd Steffel
2nd Vice: Dave Goldbeck
3rd Vice: Casey Harp
Finance Officer: Vince Rowan
Chaplain: Bill Rice
Service Officer: John Hubert
Sergeant-at-Arms: Lamont Dechant
Sergeant-at-Arms: Calvin Marcellis
Historian: Vacant

2011-2012 Auxiliary Officers

President: Lori Goldbeck
1st Vice: Pat Flanders
2nd Vice: Helene Stein
Secretary: Michelle Kudlacik
Treasurer: Rita Steffel
Chaplain: Evelyn Noyes
Hospital/Sunshine: Velma Lutz
Sergeant-at-Arms: Betty Scherer
Historian: Sue Prielipp

FROM THE COMMANDER

How do we increase hall rentals? This is question number one. What can and should be done to increase the utilization of the hall? How do we increase hall rentals? We have lowered the rental fee to \$250 for both members and non-members without any noticeable increase in rentals. Utilization of the Post should be a concern not only for the Legion Officers but for the entire membership and the Post Auxiliary. I welcome and encourage constructive ideas as we address this problem. Contact any of the Legion Officers or members of the Activities Committee. The Activities Committee includes Chuck Roeske, Jay Lewis, Calvin Marcellis, Todd Steffel and Dave Goldbeck.

How do we increase membership? This is the number two question. The 2012 membership year is here and the initial renewal rate is good as it always is (remember the membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th). But, our membership has dropped dramatically in the past few years. One reason is that many of our long time members have passed on leaving our membership in the low 400's. We must recruit members to fill this critical void. I welcome and encourage help in addressing the membership issue also. The Membership Committee is comprised of Ken Larsen, Pastor Bill Rice, Casey Harp, Bill Forseth and Gloria Aarness to help in addressing this situation.

Kudos to Ken Larsen and all who helped him in the successful completion of the recent State Class AA Legion Baseball Tournament. The event was well organized; well promoted, well attended and executed in such an outstanding manner that I'm sure the event will return in future years. I attended several games and the play was outstanding as was the sportsmanship of the players and fans.

Please welcome the Antique Mall and Jim's Handyman Service as our newest advertisers. As always, please patronize those advertisers that support our Legion.

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Fish Fries – Our first Fish Fry this year will be October 7th. I decided to forego the September Fish Fry rather than postponing it until the second weekend because of the Labor Day weekend and the low attendance at last year's first fish fry on the off weekend.

PETE PETERSON
Commander

WEBSITE UPDATE - We've had 2885 visitors as of Sept 1st, 2008. The address is www.tomahwilegion.org. Check it out on occasion and see what we've been doing. Also visit the Auxiliary Web site at www.amlegionauxwi.org

ADJUTANT

Hopefully everyone had a great summer. Personally I think we had too many of those really hot days, but August is shaping up to be a pretty nice month.

We have had a good start to the 2012 Membership processing. As of this writing, 193 members have paid their dues, plus we have 38 Paid Up For Life members, so that gives us a total of 231 paid memberships for 2012. Our current membership is at 435, so that puts us at 53%. If you haven't sent in your 2012 dues yet, please try to get them in soon. I know it seems like 2012 is still a long way off, but the Legion membership year begins in July not January.

Since the 1st of July, I have processed 3 transfers in to Post 201 - Kenneth Hansen, Bruce Aarness, and Michael Wilson. If you see these guys, take a moment to welcome them to Post 201. I have also processed 3 "Last Bugles" for the following deceased members - Virgil Fowler, James Ebert and Richard Guzinski. I will try to remember to give you the names of new members and deceased members in the monthly Informer. If you think I missed someone, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 372-7243.

Don't forget to join us on the first Friday of the month, beginning in October, for the Fish Fry.

GLORIA AARNES
Adjutant

VOITURE 804

I will be at the Legion a half hour before the next Promenade to collect your 2012 dues. We already have over 45% paid members. I want to thank all of you who have already paid.

Some of the items on the agenda will be the upcoming Wreck, Nurses Training Program (scholarship), Disaster Relief (burn outs), Child Welfare and more.

Don't forget, our Promenades are at 1900 on the third Wednesday of each month. If you haven't been to a Promenade for some time, this would be a good time to start.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE PROMENADE!!!
ERROL MROTEK
Correspondent



AUXILIARY NEWS

Welcome to a new Auxiliary year. Trust everyone had a safe and happy summer!

Some important dates:

Dept. Membership Rally, Sept 10 at Dept. Headquarters in Portage

Dept. Fall Forum, Sept 23-24 at WI Dells

District 7 Fall Information Conference, Oct 8 at Mauston

Membership Round-Up, Nov. 5-6 at TBD

District 7 Spring Conference, March 24 at North Freedom

If anyone is interested in going to the Fall Forum on Sept 23-24 at Wisconsin Dells, Pat Flanders will be attending and you can share a room with her if you wish. Please call Pat ASAP!

History was made in Wisconsin when **the American Legion elected Denise Rohan the Department Commander - the first female and the first Auxiliary member.** We wish her success as Commander.

I would like to announce and congratulate Dana Lindley (Auxiliary) and Jared Pahl (Laura Hubert's grandson) as this year's Scholarship recipients.

I would also like to thank the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for their support of the Badger Girls State (BGS) program. Every year the AAUW generously donates funds to send one delegate to BGS.

The next meeting is September 8th. If you have not been to a meeting you are urged to come and see what is new and going on. The meeting is only once a month and always the 2nd Thursday of the month and starts at 7:00 p.m. sharp. Plan for a fun and successful year with the focus on honoring our Veterans by engaging the American Legion family in service, not self, God and country!!!

Look forward to seeing everyone at our September 8 meeting.

We Serve Because They Serve

GOD Bless America

LORI GOLDBECK

Auxiliary President



BAR/HALL MANAGER

I hope everyone had a nice summer.

Do not forget that we have lowered our hall rental charges. If you hear anyone talking about having a special event (weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.) have them call the Legion to check for open dates.

Lori and I will have the bar open for the Green Bay Packer games once again this year.

Here are some dates for starters: SEPT 18th and 25th and OCT 2nd. Will let you know when other dates become available. Come down to support the Legion and watch the Pack Attack defend and make a run to repeat their SUPER BOWL title.

DAVE GOLDBECK
2nd Vice Commander

FINANCE REPORT

Checkbook Balance as of July 1, 2011: \$1246.66
Checkbook Balance as of July 31, 2011: \$1532.96
CD Balances (end of Jul): \$10537.79

VINCENT ROWAN
Finance Officer

TOMAH VETERANS MEMORIAL

Our dream has become a reality!!! The Memorial has been built and several of the tiles are already in place. The dedication ceremony will be held at Butts Park on Saturday, September 10th, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

Future bricks & tiles will be added once or twice a year depending on the number received.

REMINDER: The price of a 4 x 8 brick is \$100 and the 12 x 12 granite tiles is \$250.00. We want to thank everyone again for honoring our Veterans!!!

JIM STEELE
Treasurer
Tomah Area Veterans Memorial

UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER 2011

- 2 V-J Day (1945)
- 5 Labor Day
- 8 Legion/Auxiliary Meetings (7:00 p.m.)
- 10 Tomah Veterans Memorial Dedication
- 11 Patriot Day
- 16 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 18 PACKER PARTY
- 18 US Air Force established (1947)
- 18 GOLD STAR Family Remembrance Sunday
- 23 First Day of Autumn
- 25 PACKER PARTY
- 26 Honor Guard Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

OCTOBER 2011

- 2 PACKER PARTY
- 7 FISH FRY (1st One for the New Year)
- 7 Operation Enduring Freedom begins (2001)
- 10 Columbus Day
- 13 Legion/Auxiliary Meetings (7:00 p.m.)
- 13 US Navy established (1775)
- 24 Honor Guard Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 31 Halloween



TOMAH VAMC - HOSPITAL NEEDS

The following items are put in Welcome Tote Bags delivered to all new inpatient admissions. Approximately 100 tote bags are distributed each month.

Welcome Tote Bags (check pattern book)

"Forever" Postage Stamps	Pens	Small Package of Kleenex
1st Class Stamps/.28 stamps	Plain Envelopes (large & small)	Small Shampoo
Combs	Playing Cards (NEW)	Small Toothpaste
Liquid Soap ONLY	Quarters for Veterans	Socks (crew style)
Pencils	Small Bottle of Hand Lotion	Tootbrushes
	Small Deodorant	Writing Tablets

Items below are those enjoyed and used by Veterans during their hospital stay:

After-shave (alcohol free)	Emery Boards	Peanut Butter Cracker Snacks
All-occasion Cards	Female Personal Hygiene Items	Pocket Novels (esp Westerns)
Artificial Lures (casting-any variety)	Frozen Pizza	Polident or Efferdent
Body Wash	Fruit	Pre-shave (for electric shavers- alcohol free)
Bread Machine Mixes	Gloves	Puzzle Books (NEW, esp large print)
Checkers & Domino Sets (NEW)	Golf Balls (new & used)	Reading Glasses
Cheese & Cracker snacks	Graham Crackers	Scarves
Coffee (regular & decaf)	Handkerchiefs	Shampoo (large bottles)
Coffee Creamer	Hard Candy	Shaving Cream
Cookies	Headphones	Shoelaces
Crackers	Jelly	Slippers (various sizes, esp XL)
Crossword & Word Search	Jigsaw Puzzles (NEW)	Stocking Caps
Puzzle Books (NEW esp Large Print)	Lap Robes (see pattern book)	Sugar-free Hot Chocolate Mix
Current Magazines	Liquid Soap ONLY	Sugar-free Kool-Aid
Dictionaries (current edition)	Mouthwash	Sugar-free Lemonade
Disposable Razors	Nail Clippers	Sugar-free Popsicles
Electric Toothbrushes	Peanut Butter	

CANNOT ACCEPT BAR SOAP, IT MUST BE THE LIQUID SOAP ONLY!!!

CANNOT ACCEPT ANY TYPE OF KNIT OR CROCHETED SLIPPERS!!!

Any of the items can be donated in-kind and in any quantities. They will be distributed accordingly to the patient wards and/or clinics. Monetary donations in any amount are also welcome and items will be purchased according to the needs. Monetary donations should be sent to ALA Headquarters in Portage with a notation if you have a particular need you wish to have your donation go to.

If you do not have a pattern book and need a particular pattern, please let me know and I will send it to you. All in-kind donations should be mailed to:

Veterans Administration Medical Center
Ms. Patricia Flanders
American Legion Auxiliary - Bldg 407, Room 1739
500 E Veterans Street
Tomah, WI 54660

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!!