

Post Notes

January, 2012



Commander.....	Mike Larson	Service Officer.....	Russ Jenkins
First Vice.....	John Guler	Chaplain.....	Mike Valdovinos
Second Vice.....	Kathy Durant	Historian.....	Rob Blanchar
Adjutant.....	Bob Hargraves	Sgt. At Arms.....	Ray Van Kylen,
Finance.....	Jodie Armstrong		Denny Haugen, Darrell Krenz
Web Site.....	www.alp534.org	Post Phone Number.....	(608) 838-3249

Commander's Corner



Hi, again.

I can't thank

everyone enough for all the help and wonderful turnout for our Thanksgiving Day dinner. The donors of turkeys, food and help once again made our 20th Thanksgiving at the legion a success. We served about 155

people, down from about 180 last year, but I have to blame the Packers for playing such a good game. After the first half, we had few takers and I don't care because we won and many people had a great meal. Karen and I thank you once again!

I was unable to make the last general meeting (to drive Miss Daisy) but it went well from what I am told. Thanks for filling in.

The State Legion 2012 Midwinter Convention is January 19 to 22, 2012 at Ho Chunk in Wis. Dells. Anyone interested in going, should contact one of our officers prior to January 8. Registration is \$20.00 prior to the 8th.

We are coming to the end of collecting dues for our members and it is important that we reach 100% soon. Please check with John Guler to make sure you are current (838-3249).

I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday

Season. God Bless you all!

Commander Mike

Chaplain Mike's Blog!



The New Year, 2012, is just around the corner. Let us welcome this New Year with a fresh start. Make a list of goals you want to achieve by the end of the year. Resolutions are usually broken by the end of January, so forget that!!!

Here's a guide

that would help you make your own list of goals. Try it! It's logical and it's a good start:

1. Clear Debts and Save Money!
2. Lose weight and stay fit.
3. Learn to let go of the past.
4. Spend more time with family.
5. Stop being lazy and take control of life.
6. Read more books.
7. Learn to forgive.
8. Fall in love or get married or make a new friend.
9. Enjoy life more.
10. Go on a road trip without a predetermined destination.

So with this said, go for it or at least think

about it, to better yourself.

Happy New Year to all and your families.

Chaplain Mike

Membership Dues News



Here's wishing you all a joyous and safe Holiday Season and Great Happy New Year for 2012. Just don't overdue on the Tom and Jerrys/eggnog.

Post 534's membership is over 80%. I have posted names on the Post

bulletin board listing locals who have not paid their 2012 dues. If you know them, give them a reminder to pay up.

Hope Santa found everyone; even if you were naughty and not nice.

John Guler, Membership, 1st Vice Commander

Auxiliary News



At the January meeting, we will be picking our dates for the ladies Auxiliary breakfasts for the year of 2012. These are held four times a year to sponsor the different things we do for the community, Veterans

and active military members. The meetings are for all Auxiliary members. Please mark your calendars. We meet the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 p.m., except for the month of July.

We will be starting to send more packages to our active military ladies and men. Anyone having a name to add, please send the name to Polly Stout, 2457 Charmany Way, McFarland

53558.

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May the year of 2012 bring everyone good health, lots of happiness and lots of memories to cherish.

Take care and God Bless!

Auxiliary President, Polly Stout



Sick Call – Prayer List

Dale Everett, Gary Salverson, Howie Davis, Bert Pullar, Mark Egner, Wayne Halverson, Lyle Larson, Tilden Kaup, Ione Schwedrsky, Riley Becker (Sue Hargraves' grandson), Ron Engel, Marvin Langeteig, Christopher Ficht (grandson of Nancy Simonis), Vik Schorette, Bonnie Dobson-Lamb and Jodie Armstrong.

Please notify the following Legion members for sympathy or get well cards:

Legion Chaplain - Mike Valdovinos (438-5538)

Auxiliary Chaplain - Sue Hargraves (for death notices only) (838-8807)

Sunshine Person – Jodie Armstrong (for get well cards) (838-3745)

Auxiliary President - Polly Stout (838-9420)

S.A.L. Chaplain - Sonny Stout (838-9420)

S.A.L. Corner



Hello S.A.L. members and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone has a little extra caring for people in need over the Holidays. There are people out there who have no one to be with during the

most celebrated time of the year. Let's try and do what we can for them. It'll make you feel good deep down inside. One of our Legion/S.A.L. members took in a young man with no where to go. That is the true Christmas Spirit – Thank You!

The S.A.L. Christmas party was a big blast; lots of food and hospitality! Thanks to those who brought in food and helped. I heard that we need more bacon-wrapped chestnuts next year. Steve K. volunteered to cook them, so there's sure to be plenty of leftovers!

Our meeting last month was attended by only four members. That's not very good! Please mark your calendar for the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30. We need all S.A.L. members input for the spaghetti dinner coming up at the end of February. Watch for dates, as we need more members to work! Give me a call (577-8497) and let me know if you'd like to help on the Friday before or the day of the dinner which is Saturday. Commander, Don (Hook) Egner
p.s. The dog says, "no ice on the lake - stay off!"

A Christmas Poem

*'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I came down the chimney, with presents to give,
And to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight did I see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
On the Wall hung pictures, of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor, in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers, willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,*

*And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice.
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep.
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honor, so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."*

This poem was written by a Marine. The following is his request:

PLEASE. Would you do me the kind favor of sending this to as many people as you can? Credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us. Please do your small part to plant this small seed.

- submitted by Carol Welch -

Happy New Year!

Editor's Note: Please have your February Newsletter articles to me by Wednesday, January 18, 2012. The folding and sealing will then be the following Monday, January 23.
Thanks, Sharon

Stephen A. Foye Scholarship Trust
of the
American Legion Post 534
McFarland, WI 53558

- 1.) Applicants for scholarships must use application forms furnished by the McFarland High School, or Legion Post 534. The American Legion scholarship application will be mailed out with the January newsletter. All applications are due back by April 1st of the year applied for.
 - a.) Four year programs will receive \$1000.00 per year.
 - b.) Two year programs will receive \$1000.00 per year.
 - c.) One year programs will receive \$ 1000.00 per year.
- 2.) Two (2) scholarships will be available. One scholarship is intended to be used by a senior student from McFarland High School. The second scholarship is intended to be used by any member, sibling, child, stepchild, or grandchild of a current member of Post 534, Auxiliary, or S.A.L.
- 3.) No grade point average (GPA) is required for application. McFarland High School screens their applicants, recommending those deemed worthy, and forwards them to the Legion Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee will review the applicants presented by the High School, and select one recipient. Then, one recipient from the American Legion candidates will be selected by the Scholarship Committee. If there are no candidates from the Legion, a second McFarland High School candidate may be selected that year.
- 4.) It would be preferred that the candidate or candidates would not be receiving other known scholarships, unless such scholarships be of a lesser amount.
- 5.) Applicants must attach to the application, a 200 to 300 word typed essay on "What your goals for the future are, and how this scholarship will help you attain them."
- 6.) The Stephen A. Foye Scholarship Trust, through Post 534, will award up to two (2) scholarships annually from the following:
 - a.) Four year programs will receive \$1000.00 per
- 7.) All recipients must provide proof of a 2.0 minimum GPA after completion of their first semester, to receive the first year payment. Subsequent year's payments, where applicable, will be paid again after the first semester's proof of GPA. It is the responsibility of the recipient to request payment each year.
- 8.) In the event the recipient discontinues his/her scholastic pursuit, he/she automatically forfeits all other scholarship privileges, unless the discontinuance is due to illness, family tragedy, or military service. The recipient must submit in writing, any request for postponement of scholarship to the Scholarship Committee for approval.
- 9.) As in the case of all Legion matters, these rules are subject to revision by the Scholarship Committee, approved by the Executive Committee, and the Post 534 membership. All revisions will become effective for the following years scholarship applications. We would insure that current scholarship recipients would not be affected by any changes.
- 10.) Scholarships may be used for any accredited college, university, vocational or trade school.
- 11.) The recipient(s) of the Stephen A. Foye Scholarship Trust must show proof of documentation that they are a Citizen of the United States of America.



Stephen A. Foye Scholarship Fund Application

Application Materials due April 1, 2012

Mail to: Scholarship Committee

c/o American Legion Post 534

P.O. Box 196

McFarland, WI 53558

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Check which Scholarship you are applying for:

____ \$1,000/yr. 4-year higher education degree

____ \$1,000/yr. 2-year higher education degree

____ \$1,000/yr. 1-year higher education degree

These do not need American Legion Affiliation.

____ * \$1,000/yr. 4-year higher education degree

____ * \$1,000/yr. 2-year higher education degree

____ * \$1,000/yr. 1-year higher education degree

* Must have American Legion Post 534 affiliation.

Name of qualifying Post 534 member affiliation _____

1. Name of school, university or college of higher education that you are enrolled or accepted for the fall term.

2. If you have not been accepted to a college, when do you expect to hear and where have you applied?

3. What is your intended Major of Study?

4. Why are you interested in your intended field of study?

5. List all of your extracurricular activities you participated in while in high school.

6. List all of your community activities and other out of school activities you have participated in.

7. List all of your work experience you have had, paid or volunteer.

8. We need a 200-300 word essay on why you need this scholarship and what are your future goals.
