

Post Notes

October, 2011



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.

It has been a busy month for us and I hope I don't forget anything. (If I didn't wait until the last minute, I wouldn't have this problem.)

The chicken BBQ was a great success. Preliminary reports indicate about

650-675 chicken halves were sold. One man bought 10 dinners and put them in his vehicle. When he returned to his vehicle, someone had stolen them and we replaced them. Oh well, I guess that's our society today. Special thanks to everyone in the pits, kitchen and bar for this successful venture. You outdid yourselves by signing up early and showing up. It was a long day for everyone and I thank you. The thank you list is too long to print but you know who you are.

Thanks to Jerry Rice (the boss), Harney, Ron H., Moose, Oscar F., Hook, J.C. and Sonny. The entire exterior was cleaned and painted on Monday and Tuesday. (By the way, Hilson got fired.)

Just a couple of reminders:

We still need towels donated for the Veterans Stand Down by September 30. The event will be held October 8.

Also on October 8 is the S.A.L. dinner from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the legion or from S.A.L. members.

October 1 is fall clean-up at the post from 9 a.m. to ?, depending on how many show up.

October 16 is the first soup, sandwich and bingo party at noon.

The Angel Network will be holding a recognition lunch on November 12 at Post 534 to recognize all veterans. Lunch is free, but donations are welcome.

Remember that our meetings are the first Friday of the month. Please try to attend a meeting. We have 400 members and only about 20 show up for our meetings.

Thanks, again
Commander Mike

Chaplain Mike's Blog!



Well, it has been getting cooler and darker. That must mean we are entering fall as it officially starts Friday, September 23, 2011.

The chicken barbeque went well on Sunday, the 18th. It was good to see all our friends and neighbors.

WAYNE HORNER MEMORIAL STAND DOWN

October 8, 2011 at the reserve center on Wright Street is where it will take place. A single day event offering VA medical, benefits, two meals, haircuts and other essentials to needy veterans and their families. The need, especially for new vets, is great. This is a good opportunity to show our support of these younger people. More information is on the web site

http://standdownmadison.org/Home_Page.html

where you can volunteer for this stand down.

As vice president of Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter 5, we used to put this on yearly. Then with the 9/11/2001 disaster, we stopped for security reasons. The Red Cross has asked us this year to help start it up again. Legion Post 534 has been asked to provide towels and we are doing well, so keep up the good job. Today, a Stand Down refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's estimated 107,000 homeless veterans on any given night of "combat" life on the streets. Homeless veterans are brought together in a single location for one to three days and are provided access to the community resources needed to begin addressing their individual problems and rebuilding their lives. In the military, "Stand Down" afforded battle-weary soldiers the opportunity to renew their spirit, health and overall sense of well-being. Today's Stand Down affords the same opportunity to homeless veterans.

What happens at a Stand Down?

Hundreds of homeless veterans are provided with a broad range of necessities including food, clothing, medical, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling and referral; and most importantly, companionship and camaraderie. It is a time for the community to connect with the homeless veteran population and address this crisis that affects each and every town, city and state in this country. The hand up – not hand out – philosophy of Stand Down is carried out through the work of hundreds of volunteers and organizations throughout the nation.

Sick Call – Prayer List

Les Johnson passed August 29, 2011 and Jerry Ericson passed September 2, 2011. Betsy, the wife of Jim Deneen passed September 6, 2011. We will miss them and keep them all in our prayers and hearts. Marvin Langeteig has been ill recently and we wish him a fast recovery.

PLEASE LET MIKE VALDOVINOS (438-5538) OR SUE HARGRAVES (838-8807) KNOW OF ANY OTHER AUXILIARY, LEGION OR S.A.L. MEMBERS NEEDING CARDS.

Thanks,
Chaplain Mike

Membership Dues News



Keep those dues coming in!!! As of September 13th, Post 534 has received 168 paid up members. This is 60% of our membership goal of 285. The post has received several transfers and new members.

Upon meeting our State Commander, Denise, at the state facility on September 10th, I was presented with two new applications to our post. Thank you, Denise!!

If our state commander can recruit, so can we, as Post 534 members. So, let's "beat the bushes" and sign up new members.

In case any of you wonder what happens with our yearly dues of \$30.00, maybe this subject on donations will help. When you get calls/requests for donations think of what they go for:

1. American Red Cross: President and CEO salary for one year was \$651,957 plus expenses.
2. United Way: President receives \$375,000 base salary plus numerous expense benefits.

- 3. UNICEF: CEO receives \$1,200,000 per year plus all expenses including a Rolls Royce. Less than 5 cents of your donated dollar goes to programs.
- 4. Salvation Army: Commissioner receives a salary of only \$13,330.00 per year plus housing for managing a \$2 billion dollar organization. 96% of donated funds are spent on works.
- 5. The American Legion: National Commander receives zero salary. All donations made go to help veterans, their families and youth activities. Veterans helping veterans is what it's about.

This information was made possible by post member, Tom Talarek. Thank you, Tom, for the info.

John Guler, 1st Vice Commander

From the Ladies Auxiliary

I would like to thank the ladies for all the help with the legion chicken BBQ and the Auxiliary breakfast. The next Auxiliary breakfast will be November 6.

The ladies Auxiliary is trying to get a troop/unit to support while on active duty. I have contacted Portage with the question of how to go about requiring one. Please see the legion bulletin board or go to www.give2thetroops.org for a list of items needed. I will be placing a large box under the Auxiliary bulletin board for donated items. Please, no out-dated food items, as they will be thrown out.

Give2theTroops is a non-profit organization managed by caring and patriotic volunteers. We ensure that deployed U.S. military service members in all branches of the military are supported with letters and care packages to help boost their morale while wounded or in combat. Absolutely 100% of our proceeds go to the troops. Proceeds from the sale of any item listed will be used solely to purchase items for the troops and to help pay for postage to mail the care packages.

Bingo will be starting for the winter months through April, 2012. First bingo party, soup and sandwich will be October 16th starting at noon for the lunch and 21 games of bingo to follow. Bingo takes place every third Sunday of the month. If you would like to volunteer to help with this, please leave a message at the legion. We have lost a long time member of the legion and friend, Les Johnson, who was very involved with bingo. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Les Johnson family.

Renewal for membership is in force. If you have not sent your renewal to Ann Kleist, Membership/Vice President, please do so. We need all your support ladies to help meet our goal. I would like to welcome our newest member, Kim Henes (Don Egner's daughter) to the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Dane County Auction will be held at our post on October 27th starting at 6 p.m. with a light lunch, meeting and auction to follow. If anyone would like to donate craft items (new or used in good shape), canned goods and/or baked goods for this event, please feel free to do so. For every item that is donated, the legion gets a ticket to be drawn at a later date. If one of our tickets is drawn, the post could receive a free boy or girl entry to go to State Convention. At the 2010 Dane County Auction, the Ladies Unit 534 Auxiliary received a free girl. So please help with this event. The more items we have, the more tickets we receive.

Thank you to Sandy Larson for the McFarland Area Senior News which we will be posting on the Auxiliary bulletin board. There are many interesting articles and information for seniors. They sponsor many trips, services, programs, a daily meal menu and health tips. Take care and God Bless!
Auxiliary President, Polly Stout

Editor's Note: Please have your November Newsletter articles to me by Wednesday, October 19. The folding and sealing will then be the following Monday, October 24.
Thanks, Sharon



Sick Call – Prayer List

Dale Everett, Gary Salverson, Bobbi Zbiegien, Howie Davis, Bert Pullar, Fred and Cheryl Doyle, Mark Egner, Wayne Halverson, Tilden Kaup, Ione Schwedrsky, Riley Becker (Sue Hargraves' grandson), Lyle Larson, Ron Engel, Marvin Langeteig, Greg Larson and Karen Ohrger (Darrell Krentz's sister).

Please notify the following Legion members with sick/death notices needing cards:

Legion - Mike Valdovinos (438-5538)

Auxiliary – Sue Hargraves (838-8807)

S.A.L. – Sonny Stout (838-9420)

S.A.L. Corner



Things are looking up at our monthly meetings which are on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. If you're late, you can still contribute. There are new members adding good ideas for dinners, events and

volunteering, which is what we need.

Jon Johnson still needs help with finance duties and one of our members has a lot of experience. Isn't that right, Dick? (No last name until he's on board.)

We had a good turnout of S.A.L. workers for the Family Festival chicken barbeque. Thank you S.A.L. members.

Next, our S.A.L. prime rib and shrimp dinner is October 8th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please sign up to help out if you can. We have tickets available at the Legion and people selling. Please buy in advance, if possible.

Commander , Don (Hook) Egner
p.s. "Dog showed me a nice catch of perch and bluegill from Kegonsa.

DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT.....

And now, we never will. On Saturday, August 27, 2011, our friend Les Johnson took his last joke with him on his trip to Heaven.

We all lost a wonderful friend, and will forever hold him in our hearts and our memories. He brought out the laughter in all of us, no matter what kind of a day we were having. And needless to say, I, for one, never heard the same joke twice.

Our hearts and prayers go out to his family, including his grandchildren, who he thought the world of. He will be sorely missed by all of us, but we know he is now in a Happy Place with his beloved Ann.

God bless you, Les. If only we could hear just one more joke. Thanks for all the great moments. God hold you in His precious hands.

Sue Hargraves

Flag Etiquette Program

On early Saturday afternoon, September 14, the McFarland American Legion Post 534 presented a Flag Etiquette program to approximately 40 elderly residents and staff at the Harmony Assisted Living home of McFarland. The correct folding of the United States of America Flag 13 times took place. Each of the 13 folds has an individual story which was properly explained. Each residence received a pamphlet handout which explained the many aspects of our American Flag, and how to display it and how to respect it. Legion pens were distributed to the staff members. Those Legion members presenting the program were Russ Jenkins, Bob Hargraves and John Guler. This was another positive community project involvement by our Legion Post.

Attention "Snowbirds"

Before moving South or West, please give Post 534 your winter address. Thank you

Finance Findings

Written by: Jodie Armstrong, Finance Officer

65 and still counting!

WOW – I want to THANK-YOU for trying to bury me alive in Towels! ☺ I had to straighten up the ever growing pile of towels in the Commander's office and the last count is 65±

With a week to go, I am positive we will surpass our Legion goal of 100 towels. Let's hit our local yard and garage sales and clean house! We could use some smaller sized towels for children and babies!

Just think of the positive impact your simple towel donations have made:

- You are providing some assistance to a veteran in need ☺
- You saved your Legion Post some money ☺ (*Average cost of a bath towel \$6.00 x 100 = \$600*) by not having to purchase the towels with Legion funds; which allows our Legion the ability to help our fellow veterans and community in other ways.
- You were able to clean out your closet and save space in the landfill ☺

I would like to THANK everyone who supported our Chicken BBQ on Sunday. Despite the crummy weather, we had a great turn out in volunteers and sales. Every successful function helps the Legion to stay financially sound and be able to keep up with the building maintenance.

A prime example of this is the beautiful new paint job our Legion Hall is sporting these days. My hat is off to the Painting/Staining Team. The legion hall looks FABULOUS!

Remember to support our Auxiliary -- next breakfast is November 6th! Do you have your tickets for the SAL Steak and Shrimp dinner on October 8th?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORTING YOUR AMERICAN LEGION POST!

EMBLEM SALES

Anyone wishing to purchase legion hats, emblems, flags, etc. from Emblem Sales, should stop in at the Legion by October 10. You can go through the book and submit your order and payment at that time.

Friends are like balloons; once you let them go, you might not get them back.

Sometimes we get so busy with our own lives and problems that we may not even notice that we've let them fly away.

Sometimes we are so caught up in who's right and who's wrong that we forget what's right and wrong.

Sometimes we just don't realize what real friendship means until it is too late.





American Legion Post 534
 P.O. Box 196
 McFarland, WI 53558

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
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 PERMIT #
 MADISON, WI

Bar Manager.....Sonny Stout
 Rental Officer.....Jim Wickert
 Newsletter.....Sharon Scallon
 Building/Grounds..... Karl Schuetz, Denny Haugen

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Fall Cleanup 9 am -
		3 Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm	4 S.A.L. Mtg 6:30 pm VFW 10/27/2 7 pm	5	6 Legion Mtg 7 pm	7 S.A.L. Dinner 4-8 pm Dane Co Stand Down
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16 BRUNCH Soup, Sandwich, Bingo 12 noon	17	18	19 Exec. Bd. 7 pm Newsletter articles due
	20	21	22	23	24 Fold & Seal Newsletter	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm	2 S.A.L. Mtg 6:30 pm	3	4 Legion Mtg 7 pm	5
6 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-noon	7 Hope Rod & Gun 7:30 pm	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day Flags up at Sun - down at 5pm	12 Angel Network Recognition 11am-1pm
13	14	15	16 Exec. Bd. 7 pm Newsletter articles due	17	18	19
20 BRUNCH Soup, Sandwich, Bingo 12 noon	21 Fold & Seal Newsletter	22	23 No Rental	24 Thanksgiving Dinner	25 No Rental	26 No Rental
27	28	29	30			