



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



SEPTEMBER 2012

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3



Commanders Message:

I would like to thank all of the members who attended the Cashton Fall Festival Parade, the Flag Disposal Ceremony at Chaseburg on Tuesday September 11th and the County meeting in Hillsboro.

We have the following upcoming events that we will discuss at our next meeting: November Pork Dinner and the December Raffle.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on September 19th.

Gary J. Grethel
Commander Post 116

Dates to Remember

September 19th	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm Lunch Committee: Roger Mathison
September 22nd	Freedom Honor Flight
September 24th	SAL Meeting at 7:30pm
October 1st	Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
October 6th	7th District Fall Conference - Post 129 Black River Falls
October 16th	Vernon County Meeting at the Stoddard Legion
October 17th	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm Lunch Committee: Fishin' Crew
October 27th	SAL Halloween Party at the Coon Valley Legion
October 29th	SAL Meeting at 7:30pm
November 2nd	Pork Feed and Fun Night at the Coon Valley Legion
November 5th	SAL Meeting at 7:00pm
November 7th	Auxiliary Meeting, 7:30pm
November 11th	Veteran's Day
November 21st	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm Lunch Committee: S.A.L.
December 1st	December Raffle - Coon Valley Village Hall

September Newsletter

2012-2013

Last Bugle:

Oswald Ihle



**BUCKET
DRAWING**

**Ed Gorman
Not Present**

**September
Drawing will be:
\$30.00**

**50/50 -
DRAWING-
Randy Lenser
\$60.00**

* The Legions portion of the drawing is put towards the building fund*



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116

Commander: Gary J. Grethel
(608) 452-2261

Adjutant: Charles Nelson
(608) 452 - 3018

Post 116 Newsletter is published monthly as a service to our members. If you wish to submit an article for a future edition, please contact:
Charles Nelson
(608) 452 - 3018
for more information.

Mailing Address:

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Post 116

PO Box 314

Coon Valley, WI 54623

Phone Contacts:

Legion: (608) 452-3179

Membership Totals to Date

2013 Paid Membership - 120

2013 Membership Goal - 205

On the web:

www.coonvalleywialpost116.org

Webmaster - Don Salter: dwsalter@gmail.com

From the Adjutants Desk

- ◇ Post 116 has won the bid to host the 2013 Vernon County Banquet.
- ◇ We are looking for names and information to update our active duty map hanging in the banquet hall. Please help us with this!
- ◇ Thanks to everyone who marched in the Cashton Fall Festival Parade! John Thurk, Mike Miller, Michele Stahl, Larry Hass, and Gary Grethel.
- ◇ Thanks to everyone who attended the Flag Disposal Ceremony! Charles Nelson played trumpet for the ceremony. John Thurk spoke on behalf of the Coon Valley Legion. Mike Miller, Ron Miller, Rueben Starch, Roger Mathison, Michele Stahl attended.



Message from S.A.L. Commander:

Hi, My name is Calvin Manske and I am the newly elected S.A.L. Commander. The Brewers bus trip was very successful and enjoyable. I want to thank everyone that went on the bus trip. A big thank you goes especially to the volunteers that helped work on the bus trip. Our next meeting will be on September 24th @ 7:30 pm. A Halloween party is being set up again for this year. More details will follow.

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



Message from Auxiliary President: Julie Nelson

A warm hello to all of you. Thanks to all who attended our meeting in September. We covered quite a few topics. Please read closely and mark your calendars!

Jan and Dave Verse contacted us to see if any Auxiliary members can help on Saturday, September 29th, with Clifford Bakkum's benefit at the Legion Hall. There will be a pig roast. The family also plans to have bars, coffee and milk provided at the kitchen for people to enjoy, and there will be a free will donation placed there. They need our help to make and serve coffee (just at the kitchen counter), set out milks (individual containers), and to put bars on trays and set out on the counter. They also can use any extra pans of bars, so if you can make a pan of bars, please drop them off at the legion kitchen before 1 o'clock on that day. Please consider volunteering for a few hours if you can. It is for a great cause. We will plan on being there at 1 o'clock (to start the coffee, cut bars, etc) and continue through the afternoon and into early evening. Obviously any portion of that time you can donate is great. Please contact Jan at 608-769-1131 if you can help. I will plan on being there most of the day as well, so hope to see you there!

Feel free to pay your 2013 dues. Remember senior membership dues are \$22 and juniors are \$3. You can send your money to Gloria. Gloria indicated at our meeting that notices will be sent in mid-October.

We received ribbons to celebrate our unit's 100% membership for 2012 - way to go everyone! And thanks Gloria for all of your hard work.

We have a new Sergeant-at-Arms: Nancy Miller. Congratulations Nancy and thank you very much. After several years, Jan Raasch decided to step down - thank you Jan for your years of service!

We will not have a meeting in October, so our next meeting is on Wednesday, November 7th. Pot luck starts at 7, and the meeting begins at 7:30. Hope to see you there!
Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

Membership

As you can see we are well on the way of meeting our 100% membership goal. Our goal this year is 205 paid memberships of which we have already had 120 turned in. **This is a great time to thank everyone who has already turned in their memberships. It often feels like we put a lot of time and effort into getting everyone renewed and never look back to thank our members who make it so easy on us. I would like to say THANK-YOU!**

Saying that however, for those that have not turned in your membership, please get your membership renewal sent in as soon as possible. Gary Grethel said he would make it worth our effort if we get 100% before December 31.

Please look into renewing online. They have made it easy for all!

Coon Valley American Legion Post 116 Fundraiser

Post 116 is raffling off two (2) tickets to a UW Badgers Football Game in Madison, Wisconsin. The game will be the UW Badgers vs Ohio State on November 17, 2012. The proceeds will go towards Westby Area American Legion Baseball to help defray the cost of the Legion Tournament expenses. Tickets are \$5 each and the drawing will be held on October 24th. Thanks to Roger and Sandy Mathison for donating the tickets for this raffle. Contact Roger Mathison if you want a ticket or can help us sell tickets.

Clifford Bakkum Fundraiser

There will be a benefit for Clifford Bakkum at the Coon Valley American Legion on September 29, 2012. Dave and Jan Verse are chairing the fundraiser. Please contact them at 608-769-1131 if you can help out this evening.

Flag Disposal Box

Remember that we have a flag disposal box mounted on the Legion Building in the parking lot near the Veteran's Memorial. We just participated in the annual Flag Disposal Ceremony in Chaseburg and it is a very dignified way to dispose of worn flags. Please collect and bring in flags so we can properly dispose of them.

Active Duty Map/Board

If you know of any active duty members that we do not have posted on our map and bulletin board, please let us know. We want any of the following information: name, where they are stationed, address, and picture if you have one. You can forward this information to any of the Officers.

Pork Dinner and Family Fun Night, Friday November 2

Our annual Pork Feed and Family Fun Night will be co-chaired by John Thurk and Gary Hess. Plans are to continue to offer a pork loin meal with all the sides. We plan to keep the number of meals served similar to last year so make sure you get there early to ensure you get a meal. Once the pork is sold out we will be closing the kitchen.

December Raffle, Saturday December 1

Roger Mathison will chair this event. The tickets need to be printed and distributed by no later than the October meeting since the early bird drawing will be at the November meeting. The caterer and meal will remain the same as last year.

The Executive Committee spent quite a bit of time discussing this fundraiser and believe we can make it a very successful fundraiser, but ***we need help from all of you!*** This is our big fundraiser of the year and we need the money to pay off our loans and to keep improving our facilities. We really need individuals to step forward and help us sell tickets. There are only 200 tickets sold at \$75/couple which should not be hard to do! Please let Roger know if you either need a ticket or two or can help sell a handful of tickets.



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
COON VALLEY POST No. 116
PO BOX 314
COON VALLEY, WI 54623-0314**

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A QUICK GUIDE FOR LEADERSHIP ON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Have we considered extending eligibility to Cold War veterans? This would assist in increasing our membership.

There was a very detailed study conducted in 1985 and is known as the Godwin Study (Membership Eligibility Study Committee Report). The study committee was charged to do the following:

- Study the history and precedents of all past eligibility studies and changes.
- To evaluate the distinction between —wartime veterans and —peacetime veterans.
- To estimate the timing requirements to effect the change in our Congressional charter.
- To analyze the ultimate change in The American Legion’s long-standing history of being an organization of War Veterans and the impact of any change on the principles established at the founding of The American Legion.

The bottom-line of the study and the policy of the National Executive Committee adopted was that we would remain an organization of Wartime Veterans and that place of service does not impact eligibility, i.e., service in a combat zone is not a requirement for American Legion membership eligibility. As far as aiding veterans not eligible for The American Legion, our service officers will assist these veterans with any issue just like they do our members. It makes no difference if they are a member of The American Legion or not.

The Godwin study provides the most detailed and thorough review of eligibility issues to date.

Has this policy on eligibility been reviewed since 1985?

Since the study, every National Convention except two has faced the issue of a proposed change in eligibility. Resolutions received for the National Conventions were reviewed by the Constitutional Amendments Convention Committee as well as Credentials and Internal Affairs Convention Committee consisting of delegates from the 55 departments and their actions were confirmed by the almost 3,000 delegates to the Conventions. All proposed changes to eligibility went thru this process; all proposals to open eligibility were rejected. Hence, the considerations reviewed by the Godwin Study Committee are still applicable to The American Legion today.