



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



March 2015

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 9



Commanders Message:

Welcome to March! Winter is slowly loosening its grip on Coon Valley, days are getting longer, and soon we will be enjoying warmer weather. We have had a few events at the Post since the last meeting and we have several coming up in the next month. Most notably is our annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. Please review the work schedule in the back of this newsletter. If you are on the schedule and can not make it, please find a replacement.

Regrettably, we lost 39 year member and World War Two veteran Thelmer Johnson. His funeral was Saturday, March 7th, which we provided honors for. Thanks to all who helped honor Thelmer.

We have three new active duty members to welcome: Joshua Harr, Charles Van Galder and Kendon Kammel. Joshua is a Petty Officer First Class (E6) Equipment Operator with the US Navy Seabees in Port Huemene, CA. Charlie is a 1371 Combat Engineer Corporal with the US Marines in Camp Lejeune, NC. Kendon is the son of Legionnaire Lisa Kammel and the grandson of Legionnaire Kenny Kammel. He just completed US Marine basic training and MCT training in Camp Pendleton, CA. He is a Private and he will be going through his MOS training (7051 Crash Fire Rescue) soon. Welcome aboard, gentlemen!

Finally, I look forward to seeing everyone at the regular Post meeting on the 19th. Remember, it is on a Thursday night due to Lent. This meeting will be informal because we will also be hosting the Vernon County meeting. Thanks in advance to the ladies of the Auxiliary for preparing the meal. I always look forward to the fine meal that you prepare!

Gary M. Hess
Commander Post 116

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 19th** Informal Post Meeting - 7:00pm (THURSDAY - Lent)
Lunch Committee: Auxiliary - 7:30pm meal
Vernon County Meeting - 8:00pm
- March 21st** SAL Bean Bag Tournament - 1pm - C.V. Legion
- March 29th** Palm Sunday Breakfast (see work schedule on back)
- April 1st** Auxiliary Meeting - potluck at 6pm, meeting at 6:30pm
- April 6th** Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm
- April 11th** SAL Bean Bag Tournament - 1pm - C.V. Legion
- April 11th** 7th District Spring Conference - Neillsville
- April 15th** Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm
Lunch Committee: C. Lind & R. Starkey
- April 27th** Vernon County Meeting in Ontario
- June 1st** VA&R, CPR, & Children & Youth Reports due at State!
- June 18-21** 2015 Spirit Run for the Legacy Scholarship Fund
- July 15-19th** Department Convention - Radisson Paper Valley, Appleton, WI

March Newsletter

2014-2015

Last Bugle:

James Miller*
Howard Holen
Rodney Berg, Sr.*
Ervin Jacobson
Leon Kogut
Thelmer Johnson

* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET
DRAWING**

**Sam Knutson
Not Present**

**March
Drawing will be:
\$70.00**

**50/50
DRAWING
None**

Legion None

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



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116

Commander: Gary M. Hess
(608) 788-1768
Adjutant: Charles E. 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:

Coon Valley American Legion
Post 116
PO Box 314
Coon Valley, WI 54623

Phone Contacts:

Legion: (608) 452-3179

Membership Totals to Date

2015 Paid Membership - 188
2015 Membership Goal - 196

On the web:

www.coonvalleywialpost116.org

Webmaster - Don Salter: dwsalter@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP: Please make your check payable to C.V. Legion Post 116 in the amount of \$30.00 and send to:
Coon Valley American Legion Post 116
PO Box 314
Coon Valley, WI 54623



Message from S.A.L. Commander:

Two bean bag tournaments are scheduled for March 21st and April 11th. The tournament will begin at 1:00 pm. Our Brewers bus trip should be a dandy this year. On May 9th, we will be going to see the Brewers vs. Cubs!! Flyers will be posted concerning these events in the near future.
Cal Manske, SAL Commander



Message from Auxiliary President:

A warm hello to all of you. Spring seems to finally be in the air. It will be nice to see the flowers bloom soon.

American Legion Auxiliary Mission Statement: In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans and their families, both at home and abroad.

For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

When you consider those words, you can be very proud of what our Coon Valley American Legion Auxiliary Post 116 Unit does every year. With the help of our members, our Legion family, volunteers and the community, our Auxiliary Unit is able to make great strides towards re-accomplishing that mission every year. When you look at our plans in this newsletter, it makes me so proud to be part of such a wonderful organization. Thank you all for all that you do!

This month, we cook and serve for the **American Legion's dinner on March 19th**. Some Auxiliary members will start meeting at the Legion Hall at 5:00 p.m. and others at 5:30 p.m. If you are able to help, please come when you are available. We serve the meal at 7:30 p.m. **Please wear red, white and/or blue to this event!**

As you may recall, we received a generous donation from Kenny Kammel in memory of his wife, a long-time Auxiliary member. At our March meeting, we voted to purchase several kitchen items for the Legion Hall, including two 30-cup coffee pots, aprons, large cutting boards to set roasters on, and a utility cart which can be used to transport roasters and other heavy items within the building. We are also purchasing some much-needed extension cords. We are also purchasing the new American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Emblems for the welcome signs on each end of town.

Additionally, our Auxiliary Unit cashed in a CD of ours that came due. At our March meeting, we also voted to pay off the remaining balance on the Legion Hall roof. Commander Hess happened to be at the Legion Hall that evening after the Legion Executive meeting, so we invited him or his designee to our April meeting so that we can present the check to the Legion at our meeting.

Gloria is once again assembling **Easter baskets** for our local homebound, including many veterans and Auxiliary members. Please bring any empty plastic strawberry containers you have to the Legion dinner on March 19th, so she can start packing those containers.

We are very thankful to **Yvonne Berg's family** for designating our Auxiliary Unit, of which she was a long-time member, for memorials in her honor. We are grateful for this generosity.

Our **next meeting is on Wednesday, April 1st**. We have potluck at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Let's have a great turnout considering our presentation to the Legion to pay off the roof! Hope to see you then!

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

Service Awards

The following two Vernon County Service Award recipients have been forwarded onto the 7th District for consideration and possible advancement to the State competition.

Firefighter of the Year: Jeffrey T. Matson, nominated by Stoddard

Law and Order Award: Travis Sutton, nominated by Viroqua

Roof update

The loan currently stands at \$1,692.40 with our last payment due on 7/13/15. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to paying down this considerable amount of debt.

A large thank-you goes out to the Auxiliary for voting at their last meeting to pay off the loan. THANKS!

Vernon County Veterans Service Office (Jim Young and Tami Saleska)

I would like to make you aware of the Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit. This program provides a refundable property tax credit for the primary residence (in state) and up to one acre of land via the state income tax form for eligible veterans as certified by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. The credit is equal to the property taxes paid during the year on the veteran's or un-remarried surviving spouse's principal dwelling in Wisconsin.

If you meet the following qualifications you are eligible to apply for this benefit:

- ◇ 100% Disabled VA Veteran
- ◇ You have remained un-remarried since your husband's/wife's death AND
- ◇ your husband/wife was a resident of the state of Wisconsin for at least the five years prior to his/her death AND
- ◇ you pay property taxes for a primary residence in Wisconsin.

If you qualify, I would like to encourage you to contact this office for more information and assistance in applying.

Please contact Jim Young or Tami Saleska with any VSO questions at 608-637-5323.

Pass along to fellow veterans

La Crosse Area Veterans Mentor Program - Heard in the news lately about a veteran that needs some help? The La Crosse Area Veterans Mentor Program (LAVMP) is there to help fellow veterans receive necessary services to enable them to reach their potential as productive members of their Wisconsin Hometown Community. Want to be a mentor to a fellow veteran in need? It doesn't take a lot of time, just desire! Interested? ... Call the La Crosse Area Veterans Mentor Program at (608) 785-6420, or visit its website at www.lavmp.org. Never Leaving a Fellow Veteran Behind.

Tomah V.A.M.C. - There is a real need for the following donations at the Tomah VA Medical Center and King Veterans Home. Gripper Socks, T-Shirts, Velcro Shoes, Sweat Pants and Sweat Shirts preferably size large, x-large, and xx-large, Craft Supplies, Construction Paper, Markers, Colored Pencils, Canvas Boards, and Non-Toxic Acrylic Paints.

Upcoming Dates at King Veteran Home: Sunday, March 29th - Vietnam Veterans Day; Sunday, May 11th - Open House from 10am-3pm; Sunday, June 31st - American Legion and Auxiliary King Day; June 8th through June 14th - Veteran Week at the American Legion Camp; May 20th - 9am-11:30am, Fishing Contest for patients at the Tomah VA Medical Center pier put on by the American Legion.

Coon Creek Trout Fest 2015

The Coon Creek Trout Fest will be held again this summer. This year the Legion will be hosting vendors inside the building that will be part of the Trout Fest. The Coon Valley Legion would like to thank Frank Mathison, our representative on the Trout Fest committee, for keeping us abreast on the happenings at the monthly meetings.

American Flags for sale from the Legion

Don't forget that Post 116 has flags available for sale to any member as well as anyone in our Community or beyond. This can be a great fundraiser for the American Legion so spread the word and don't forget the Legion when you need to order a flag. Get a new flag in time for Memorial Day!!

Memorial Day 2015

The Main Speaker for our Annual Memorial Day Program will be the honorable Fred Berns. Fred is a judge in Whitehall and the current director of the Wisconsin American Legion Badger Boys State.



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

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Palm Sunday Breakfast - Sunday, March 29th

	7:00-10:00am	10:00am-1:00pm
Cooking Scrambled Eggs	Roger Mathison Charles Nelson	Steve Nelson Dennis Kammel
Cooking Pancakes	Chuck Lind Ron Miller	Carl Holte Fuzzy Miller
Cooking Sausages	Bernie Roesler Dan Hofslie	Larry Hass Gordon Hellwig
Window Servers	Gary Grethel Wesley Guy	Ron Hoff Wally Cox
Tables, Beverages, Coffee	Mary Schmidt Sherman Olson Roger Starkey Harlan Helseth Herb Cornell	Don Salter Ken Kammel Reuben Starch Tom Elson Don Kammel
Cashier	Frank Mathison	James Hammes
Bartender	Rod Ofte (9am to noon)	

Cleanup (12:00 - 1:00) The late shifts will clean up from noon to 1:00p.m.!!! Anyone else is also welcome!

The price of the breakfast will be \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children.