



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



FEBRUARY 2016

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 8



Commanders Message:

Greetings Legion Family Members! Now that all of the holidays have passed and we have had a chance to take a bit of a breather, we are back to the pursuit of our American Legion Programs. We had a very busy weekend on February 5th, 6th and 7th and I believe we have had good results. On Friday night, February 5th, we had a great crew show up to present colors at the 93rd Annual Ski Jump at Snowflake Ski Club. On Saturday we had better representation at the Vernon County Banquet in Viroqua than the other posts in the county. And on Sunday the 7th, we had our annual Super Sunday Pancake Breakfast which went over spectacularly! We sure went through the food that day! So my deepest gratitude to everyone who helped out with all of these events! For those who were able to participate, please know that you contributed directly to the success of these events and that directly impacts our ability to execute our programs.

One of those programs is Americanism. As a part of Americanism, we provide flag advocacy for our communities. The pancake breakfast provides us with the funds to donate to the Village of Coon Valley so they can purchase American-made American Flags to display on Central Avenue. I know I have heard from many people from outside of our community how patriotic Coon Valley is by their display of the American Flags. On Tuesday night, February 9th, Third Vice Commander Wes Guy and I presented a check for \$500.00 to the Village to continue to keep new flags waving down Central

Avenue. Please know that this is a direct reflection on every one of us and our commitment to the community that we never let our love of our community, state and nation waver.

Finally, we are still about 10 membership renewals short of attaining 100% for 2016. If you have not renewed your membership, please see to it right away. If any of our membership knows of a veteran who qualifies for the American Legion and is not a member, please do what you can to recruit that veteran to join us. Our doors are open to all who qualify and the more members that we can involve in our events and programs, the better we can serve our community and our veterans.

Once again, thanks to everyone who do what they can, when they can, to help with all of our programs and events. I look forward to seeing you all at the February regular post meeting on the 17th.

Gary M. Hess, Commander Post 116

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 17th	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm Lunch Committee: Ron Miller and Michael Miller
February 27th	C.V. Baseball Association Chicken-Q
March 7th	Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm
March 7th	Auxiliary Meeting—potluck at 6pm, meeting at 6:30pm
March 17th	Informal Post Meeting (if needed) - 7:00pm (THURSDAY - Lent) Lunch Committee: Auxiliary - 7:30pm meal Vernon County Meeting - 8:00pm
March 20th	Palm Sunday Breakfast at the Legion Hall
April 4th	Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm
April 4-15th	Americanism & Government Test accessible online
April 20th	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm Lunch Committee: C. Lind & R. Starkey
April 23rd	7th District Spring Conference - Tomah
April 25th	Vernon County Meeting in Ontario - 7:30pm meal, 8:00pm meeting
June 1st	VA&R, CPR, & Children & Youth Reports due at State.
June 17-19th	Commander Oatman's 2016 Run For Pride for the Legacy Scholarship Fund (motorcycling)
July 14-17th	2016 Department Convention - Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI

February Newsletter

2015-2016

Last Bugle:

Stephen Sapuder*
Howard Mathison
Lester Gilbertson
Virgil Lee*

* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET
DRAWING**

David Hofslie
Not Present

February
Drawing will be:
\$90.00

50/50
DRAWING

John Thurk

\$51.00



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

2016 Paid Membership - 188

2016 Membership Goal - 197

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

Adjutant Notes:

- **Comfort Warriors:** In 2015, Operation Comfort Warriors provided \$225,000 in grants to assist wounded veterans in their rehabilitation. www.legion.org/ocw

Vernon County American Legion Banquet - Viroqua Post 138 - February 6th

Viroqua Post 138 hosted the Vernon County Legion Banquet on February 6, 2016 at the Legion Club Rooms in Viroqua. The social began at 6:00pm, the meal was served at 7:00pm, and the program began at 7:30pm. Post 116 was well represented by Roger and Sandy Mathison, Frank Mathison, Ron Miller, Michael Miller, Steve and Angie Nelson, and Charles and Kim Nelson.



Message from S.A.L. Commander:

Our monthly meeting will be on Feb. 17th @ 8 pm. We will be discussing various activities for the next year.

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



Message from Auxiliary President:

At our February meeting, we discussed the upcoming Legion meeting on March 17th when the Auxiliary serves our annual turkey dinner. Per our vote at last year's meeting, Gloria and Nancy will purchase all of the groceries needed for the dinner. We will prepare the gravy, dressing, and mashed potatoes in the Legion kitchen the day of the meeting. Thanks to Joyce, Ellie and Rachel for preparing the turkeys and to Gloria and Nancy for shopping for the groceries! We also have other members who will be donating items and they will be recognized in a later newsletter. We will need plenty of help that day in the kitchen. We will finalize the time to be there at our March meeting, but we think it will be approximately 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. Also, please remember to wear red, white, and/or blue.

We approved our own version of a scholarship application to be used beginning this year for a graduating senior who is applying for the Coon Valley American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship. Our Unit has been offering an annual scholarship since 1987, and the new application will make it easier for our committee to determine the scholarship recipient.

March meeting date change: Because of Lent, our March Auxiliary meeting is on Monday, March 7th at 6:30 p.m., with potluck at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

2016 Fort McCoy Armed Forces Day Open House

FUN FOR ALL AGES:

- Guided bus tours
- Military Equipment Displays
- Face painting
- Personalized Dog Tags
- Historic World War II buildings
- Sandbag filling station
- Refreshments available & much more!



Fort McCoy is a Commemorative Partner with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

Join us as we recognize, thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families.

**Saturday, May 21
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Located between Sparta & Tomah, Wis., off of Hwy 21.

**FREE
ADMISSION**

Enter at Gate 15 & follow signs.
Adults must have photo ID.
Questions? Call 608-388-2407
or visit www.mccoy.army.mil

**PUBLIC
WELCOME!**

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

Service Awards

The Vernon County American Legion honored the Service Award winners at the Vernon County Banquet on February 6th. The Banquet was held at the Viroqua Legion and the following individuals were honored:

Teacher of the Year: Brad Thew, nominated by Viroqua

Firefighter of the Year: Eric Banks, nominated by Viroqua

Law and Order Award: Jeff Walbrun, nominated by Viroqua

A special commendation was presented to Judge Michael Rosborough by Vernon County Youth Government Day Chairman, Gary Gilbertson, for his many years helping with the Vernon County Youth Government Day.

Westby Snowflake Ski Jump—Friday, February 5th

The Coon Valley American Legion presented Colors at opening ceremony for the Snowflake Ski Jump on Friday evening, February 5th. Legion family members helping were, Gary Hess, Cal Manske, Ron Miller, Bernie Roesler, Rod Ofte, and Charles Nelson. Thanks once again to Daryl and Rhonda Brye for warming us up as soon as we completed our presentation of Colors with some secret blend of apple juice!

Pass along to fellow veterans

Veteran Tickets Foundation, wanted to let you know about their great organization. They give out free event tickets to all kinds of things all across the country.

Stuff like football, baseball, soccer, basketball, concerts, zoo passes, plays and more!

You can sign up using the following link. <http://www.VetTix.org/ref/252926>

When you do, and verify your service you will get an additional 15 VetTix Lottery Coins to start off with!

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.

Ever Thought Of Being On A Department Committee?

If you have ever thought about being on a department standing committee, check out www.wilegion.org under About—> Commissions and Committees. You can check out the purpose of each committee and find an application form.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
COON VALLEY POST No. 116
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Paid Up For Life (PUFL)

American Legion members interested in the discounted Paid Up For Life program can easily join online:
www.legion.org/join/pufl

For more information about the Paid Up For Life program: call (800) 433-3318.

Memorial Day 2016

It is that time of year again that we need to secure a Main Speaker for our Annual Memorial Day Program.

The American Legion Department of Wisconsin Americanism and Government Scholarship

The Americanism and Government scholarship program fosters interest in all levels of government, citizenship and provides students the opportunity to receive recognition and scholarships. Students are tested on their knowledge of U.S. Government, Wisconsin Government, County Government, the U.S. Constitution and flag etiquette. Students are also required to answer an essay question at the end of the test. This is not an open book test and students are not allowed to use outside resources.

Students are able to access the test in 3 easy steps! Test is accessible April 4, 2016—April 15, 2016

1. Click on the test link found on the www.wilegion.org website. Click on Programs, click on Americanism and Government Scholarship.
2. Complete registration and log in using the email and password you created.
3. Begin test!

Students have 1 hour to complete the test. All answers will be final. Attempting to restart, pause, close the browser, or hit the back button will terminate the test without an opportunity to continue. Students failing to complete the essay question will be ineligible for a scholarship.

Any Student in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in any public, private, parochial or home-schooled within the state of Wisconsin may participate.