



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3



Commanders Message:

Where did the summer go? It all went by so fast and we all had so much going on that we find ourselves facing autumn and all that comes with it. By the time you get this newsletter, much will have happened in September already, such as the Cashton Fall Festival Parade, the 9/11 Observance and Flag Retirement at Post 202, Freedom Honor Flight on September 17th and manning the booth at the Vernon County Fair on the 18th. Many thanks to the Legionnaires, SAL and Auxiliary who participated in those events!

Planning has begun for the November Chicken Q, the Veteran's Day activities and the December Raffle. There is much to be done on all of these events and I thank all who work so hard to plan and execute them.

Membership renewals are occurring at a brisk rate and we are over 50% as of the Executive Committee Meeting. So, just a friendly reminder to take a look at your Legion card and if it says 2016, it is expired and you need yours to read 2017.

Speaking of membership, I would like to welcome new member Kyle Bethauser to Post 116! Matt Semke introduced Kyle at the August meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting on the 21st!

Gary M. Hess, Commander Post 116

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 21st	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm Lunch Committee: Roger Mathison
September 21st	SAL Regular meeting at 8pm.
October 3rd	Legion Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30pm
October 8th	7th District Fall Conference at Post 206, Wonewoc
October 14th	Department Fall Meetings in Portage
October 18th	Vernon County Meeting, Stoddard at 8:00pm
October 19th	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm Lunch Committee: Fishin' Crew
October 19th	SAL Regular Meeting at 8:00pm
November 2nd	Auxiliary Meeting, Pot Luck Meal at 6:00pm, Meeting at 6:30pm
November 6th	Annual November Veteran's Day Chicken Q
November 7th	Legion Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30pm
November 11th	Veteran's Day Activities at CV Elementary, Westby HS and Norseland Nursing Home
November 16th	Regular Post Meeting, meat at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm Lunch Committee: SAL
December 3rd	Annual December Raffle

September Newsletter

2016-2017

Last Bugle:

Larry Torgerson
John Sisbach, Jr

* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET
DRAWING**

\$30

Monroe Johnson
Not Present

August
Drawing will be:
\$40

50/50
DRAWING

Not Held



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:
Gary Hess
(608) 788-1768
for more information.

Mailing Address:

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Coon Valley, WI 54623
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Legion: (608) 452-3179

Membership Totals to Date

2017 Paid Membership - 118
2017 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 **\$40.00** and send to: Coon Valley American Legion Post 116
PO Box 314
Coon Valley, WI 54623



Message from S.A.L. Commander:

Hello Everyone, We will have our meeting on Sept. 21st @ 8 pm. Topics include the Halloween party and memberships.

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



Message from Auxiliary President:

A warm hello to all of you. Thanks to everyone who attended our September meeting. We approved a yearly meeting schedule. The Auxiliary will meet in February, March, April, May, June, August, September, and November. In December, we will go out to eat for our Christmas party and we can discuss any items informally at that time. Therefore, we will not meet in January, July, and October.

We discussed information provided from State Headquarters about declining membership nationwide. What can we do to help this problem? How can we increase membership in our own unit? If you know of anyone eligible for the Auxiliary, please invite them to join our wonderful unit.

Who is eligible to join the Auxiliary? All women who are eligible for membership in the Auxiliary (this includes step-relatives) fall into one of the following categories:

- The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of members of The American Legion.
- The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of those who served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. during any of the eligibility periods and who died in the line of duty during such service, or who, having received an Honorable Discharge, died after such service.
- The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of those who were citizens of the U.S. and who served during any of the eligibility periods in the Armed Forces of any of the governments who were allies of the U.S. and who died in the line of duty during such service, or who, having received an Honorable Discharge, died after such service.
- Women who are eligible for membership in the American Legion in their own right.

The **Membership Eligibility Requirements** and **Membership Applications** are available at www.amlegionauxwi.org under Membership. Please call me if you have questions.

Our **next meeting is Wednesday, November 2nd**, with Pot Luck at 6:00 p.m. and our Meeting at 6:30. We will have many items to discuss, so please attend if you can.

Julie Nelson
Auxiliary President

Vernon County Veterans Service Office (Jim Young and Tami Saleska) 608-637-5323

Let us keep Tami Saleska in our thoughts and prayers as her mother Linda Engh passed away Wednesday morning, September 14th.

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. The 3' x 5' flags are \$25.00.

Barroom Entrance to Legion Hall

A committee is actively seeking ideas from contractors on design ideas for an entrance to the barroom. The body will then vote on one of these ideas or decide to leave the entrance as it is currently.

Long Range Planning Committee

Many of you may know but some of you might not know that we are establishing a Long Range Planning Committee. This committee will comprise of three Legionnaires, one Auxiliary and one SAL member. None of the committee members may be officers in their respective organization. The goal is to help provide a comprehensive vision for the future of Post 116 as an organization and for the building and grounds. So far we have our three Legionnaires who have volunteered to be on this committee. We are looking for one from the Auxiliary and one from the Sons. Please contact Commander Hess or Adjutant Nelson if you are interested in being on this committee.

New Flag Pole for Westby High School Football Field

A motion was made by Mathew Semke and seconded by Roger Mathison at the August meeting to approve the purchase of a 50 foot flagpole and flag for the new Westby football field, with the intention that other Posts in the Westby School District donate what they deem is appropriate. Tom Sharratt has asked Dan Hofslie and the Coon Valley Post 116 honor guard to be the first post to raise the flag. This dedication will take place 4:00pm Friday, September 16th. A special thank you to the Gordy Hellwig family for donating the flag for this pole.

Commander's Special Message

Many of you know, or maybe you don't, that Legionnaire Daryl Brye decorates our veterans' graves with flags in the cemeteries that we serve before every Memorial Day. After Labor Day, he takes the flags down and turns in the unserviceable ones to be properly disposed of. He gave me permission to print this prose that he wrote in true Navy tradition:

Commander Hess:

Our area cemeteries that have been graced with the colors of our nation, once again seem bare. The flags that have shown a season of remembrance for those veterans that have gone before us wave no more.

Those flags - brilliant colors waving atop arrow-straight staffs, had shown some wear. The wooden posts had been bent by winds blowing across the graves of those buried in the land of the free. The radiant red, white, and blue had faded in our summer sun. Some tattered, others torn. A few had nearly separated completely from their poles, but were determined to hang on.

Beaten, faded, tattered, torn, bent, and broken. None of them simply 'took a knee'. These flags have served us well and are ready for their ceremonious retirement and disposal.

Again, thank you shipmate, for this simple honor.

The thanks goes to you Daryl, for providing this valuable service to the memory of our deceased veterans with the reverence and respect that is befitting them.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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2017 5-Year Increment Members

Last month, many names were published in error for the 5-year increment anniversary of membership. This should be the correct listing. Congratulations for these milestones! Please come to the next meeting if you are able and pick up your increment pin!

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 5 – Donald Langaard | 20 – Lester Bagstad | 25 – Evelyn Williams | 35 – Allen Walker |
| 10 – Dennis Miller | 20 – Donald McCormick | 30 – Jeffrey Olson | 40 – Ron Hole |
| 10 – Rod Ofte | 20 – Steven Olson | 30 – Steven Vance | 45 – Roger Mathison |
| 10 – Donald Salter | 20 – Douglas Sveum | 35 - Jack Fletcher | 45 – Leo Nelson |
| 10 – Eric Stafslie | 25 – John Brzazowske | 35 – Paul Nelson | 45 – Gary Ostrem |
| 10 – James Torgerson | 25 – John Halvorson | 35 – John Townsend | 50 – Loren Anderson |
| 15 – Austin Holen | 25 – Michael Miller | 35 – David Verse | 50 – Lamont Hagen |



2016 Cashton Fall Festival Parade Honor Guard

A big thanks to Steve Nelson, Rolv Ihle, Michael Miller, Charles Nelson and Gordy Hellwig for their participation in the Cashton Fall Festival Parade. Gordy rode his 1967 M274 Military Mule in the parade as he has done in recent years. Unfortunately, Gordy is not included in this photo, which was published in the September 14th online version of the Westby Times.