



# COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



APRIL 2017

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 10



### Commanders Message:

Greetings Legion Family Members of Post 116! Spring has definitely sprung and spring activities are in full swing! Sounds of baseball practice and games fill the air around out parks and motorcycles are rumbling down the road in increasing numbers.

Now that Spring is here, we have some spring cleaning projects and general sprucing up of the Post a little bit. There are always plenty of projects to perform in order to keep our post as presentable as it can be, so if you have some free time, please consider spending some time at the Legion in this effort! Contact me, Roger or Adjutant Charlie and we can get you set up.

There is a survey attached to this newsletter from the Long Range Planning Committee. A lot of time and effort went into this, so please give it your attention, fill it out and return it. The future of our post relies on feedback from our membership. Thank you.

Officer elections are right around the corner as well as we will be taking nominations for all officer positions. Please consider serving as an officer for your post. It is very rewarding and you can learn more about American Legion Programs!

Membership renewals are coming to a critical state. We are at 180 out of 197. If you have not renewed your membership for 2017, please take care of this immediately. We will be making phone calls for those who are not renewed yet.

Once again, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as Commander of this fine post. As I look back on all of our accomplishments over the past 4 years, I am humbled by the amount of effort and care that everyone puts in to our awesome Post. Please continue that effort with our next Commander!  
**Gary M. Hess, Commander Post 116**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 15th Youth Foundation Easter Egg Hunt at the Legion
- April 17th Fire Department Appreciation Dinner at the Legion
- April 19th Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal, 8:00pm meeting  
Lunch Committee: Charles Lind & Roger Starkey
- April 22nd Seventh District Spring Conference, 10:00am, Post 336 Onalaska
- April 24th Vernon County Meeting in Ontario - 7:30pm meal, 8:00pm meeting - Monday
- May 1st Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm
- May 1st Auxiliary Meeting, Potluck at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:00pm
- May 17th Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal, 8:00pm Meeting - Officer Elections  
Lunch Committee: K. Kammel
- May 21st Westby Syttende Mai Parade - Line-up between 9:00am & 12:30pm, parade starts at 1:30pm
- May 24th Vernon County Meeting in Chaseburg - 7:30pm meal, 8:00pm meeting - Wednesday
- May 29th Memorial Day Program
- June 5th Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30pm
- June 9th-11th Commander Seehafer's Rev's Run for the Legacy Scholarship Fund (Legion Riders)
- June 11th Coon Valley Legion Chicken Q
- June 21st Regular Post Meeting, Meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm - Installation of Officers  
Lunch Committee: Steve Vance & Frank Mathison
- July 30th SAL Brewer Bus Trip - Brewers vs Cubs at 1:10pm

# April Newsletter

2016-2017

Last Bugle:

Larry Torgerson  
John Sisbach, Jr  
Leo Lusk\*

\* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET  
DRAWING**

March \$20

Paul Nichols  
(Not Present)

April Drawing Will  
Be \$30

**50/50  
DRAWING**

None Held Due To  
Vernon County  
50/50



## 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:

Coon Valley American Legion  
Post 116  
PO Box 314  
Coon Valley, WI 54623  
**Phone Contacts:**  
Legion: (608) 452-3179

### Membership Totals to Date

2017 Paid Membership - 180  
2017 Membership Goal-197

On the web:

[www.coonvalleywialpost116.org](http://www.coonvalleywialpost116.org)  
Webmaster - Don Salter: [dwsalter@gmail.com](mailto: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,  
I believe spring might be getting here! The S.A.L. will have a meeting on April 19th @ 8 pm. Topics to discuss include the Memorial Day parade, grade school coloring contest and our annual Brewers bus trip. Our Brewers bus trip will be on Sunday, July 30th. The game begins at 1:10 pm. I hope to see everyone at the meeting.  
Thank you!  
Cal Manske,  
SAL Commander

### Message from Auxiliary President:



A warm hello to all of you.  
**Remember:** 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(s) of those who serve(d) by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.  
**County Meeting:** Thanks to everyone who helped with the meal for the Legion's County Meeting/Birthday in March. It is always nice to spend time with so many Legionnaires. Thanks to everyone for wearing patriotic colors too.  
**Easter Baskets:** Gloria once again created the Easter baskets for our local homebound, including many veterans and Auxiliary members. The baskets were beautiful! A big thank you to Gloria and anyone else who helped deliver them!  
**Memorial Day:** Thanks to Joyce and Mary for working on the **poppies**. All the menu items for Memorial Day have been decided. Please watch for the **work schedule** in the May newsletter. We also need **cakes** again this year – we always appreciate the delicious cakes you bring! Please drop off cakes as early as you can on Monday morning before the parade. We again will provide free meals to band students who marched in the parade. We will also sell meals to other attendees. Let's pray for beautiful weather!  
**Election:** Election of officers occurs at our June meeting (June 7<sup>th</sup>), so please try and attend this important meeting.  
**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting is on **Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**, with potluck at 6 p.m. and meeting at 6:30. We look forward to seeing you there! Thanks.

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

**Vernon County Veterans Service Office (Jim Young) 608-637-5323 (veterans@vernoncounty.org)**

A veterans service officer (VSO) is an individual who advocates for veterans benefits. They should never take an action which they believe to have a negative impact on the veteran or family of the veteran. The VSO is also responsible for being proficient in the areas of customer service, technical knowledge of regulation and law as it pertains to VA matters, and proper disposition of claims and appeals. This is a valuable resource for all veterans in order to wade through the intimidating maze that can be the Veterans Administration.

**Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast**

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. We had a super turn-out of workers with only a few no-shows and some substitutions and one drop-in helper. It was greatly appreciated. We had over 200 guests partake in our breakfast offerings, which is above average. We will be discussing scheduling in the future in order to ensure more worker participation.

**E-Mail Receipt of the Coon Valley American Legion Newsletter**

As always, we are trying to find ways to be economic with our expenses and one way that all of us can contribute to that is to have the newsletter e-mailed to you instead of receiving it via US Mail. This saves us costs in publishing as well as in postage costs. If you would like to have your newsletter delivered to you via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Commander Hess at garyhess@centurytel.net and you will be added to the e-mail roster and taken off of the mailing roster. All e-mails are sent "in the blind" to protect members' privacy and are kept in the strictest confidentiality. Thank you!

**Long Range Planning Committee**

The Long Range Planning Committee has developed a survey which you will find as an insert in this newsletter. Please take the time to fill this survey out and return it to the address on the survey, or you can drop it off in the flag disposal box which will be checked daily for returns. Commander Hess thanks the Committee for the quick action and the thought that went into the survey.

**Fire Department Appreciation Dinner Set For April 17th**

Everyone appreciates the job that our local emergency services does for our community, so we are going to host an Appreciation Dinner for the Coon Creek Fire & Rescue on Monday, April 17th. Bartending will start at 6:00pm. Menu will be some form of pasta/spaghetti. Legion Family members are asked to bring bars for dessert. Everyone is encouraged to attend and honor our local volunteer firefighters and EMT's.

**Vernon County Dairy Breakfast**

The Vernon County Dairy Breakfast is scheduled for the first Saturday in June at the Hamburg Hill Dairy Farm near Chaseburg. The address is E2556 Hamburg Ridge Rd, north of Chaseburg off of CTH K. The Legion was asked if any Legionnaires would like to volunteer to drive tractor to chauffer people from the parking area to the grounds and back. This will be discussed at the April meeting.

**Vernon County Monthly Raffle Winners**

The following people were drawn to receive prizes at the March Vernon County Meeting:  
\$50-Vito Strimaitis, \$25-Wally Cox, \$25-Harold Olson, \$15-Adrian Hendrickson, \$10-Post 155.

**Worse Punishment?**

An Air Force cargo plane was preparing for departure from Thule Air Base in Greenland. They were waiting for the truck to arrive to pump out the aircraft's sewage holding tank. The Aircraft Commander was in a hurry, the truck was late in arriving, and the Airman performing the job was extremely slow in getting the tank pumped out.

When the commander berated the Airman for his slowness and promised punishment, the Airman responded: "Sir, I have no stripes, it is 20 below zero, I'm stationed in Greenland, and I am pumping sewage out of airplanes. Just what are you going to do to punish me?"



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

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Coon Valley, WI 54623  
Permit No. 10

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

«FirstName» «LastName»  
«Address1»  
«City» «State» «PostalCode»

### A Very Special Thank You

Some of you might have seen this photo already, but for those who have not seen it, this photo of our Color Guard was taken in February 2016 at the Westby Ski Jump Opening Ceremonies by SAL member Jon Lee.

Jon and an associate of his, Mr. James Taylor from Onalaska, generously donated a poster-sized copy of this photo to the Legion to be displayed in the Legion hall. We are currently having this framed so that it may be proudly displayed.

This is a treasure that will be proudly displayed for many years to come.

A huge thank you to Jon and Mr. Taylor for this donation. Once the public sees this poster, it will be obvious the photographic talent that Jon has.



# Coon Valley WI American Legion Post #116 2017 Survey

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Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete and return this survey. Post 116's Long Range Planning Committee will compile & analyze the information gathered. Think of it as a physical exam. It is a good practice to have them on occasion to measure our health. If we think we are healthy now our membership will provide good feedback. That in turn will be helpful in keeping Post 116 healthy and tuned in to the needs of our Post in the future.

Post 116 Long Range Planning Committee

\*American Legion

\*Sons of the American Legions

\*American Legion Auxiliary

Rate 1 – 5 [X]

1. Follow principles of Preamble.
2. Have good youth programs.
3. Members are interested and active.
4. It is a real asset to the community.
5. Post is a community center.
6. Veterans needing help are helped by our post.
7. Has businesslike operation.
8. Meeting length and content.
9. Is well thought of by the community.
10. Is well thought of by veterans.
11. Quality and Informative newsletter.
12. Newsletter: Timeliness of delivery.
13. To offset printing costs I prefer to receive electronic version of newsletter. (Check Yes or No)
14. Welcoming atmosphere for existing members.
15. Welcoming atmosphere for new members.
16. Recruiting new members. (meeting our goals)
17. I participate in Legion fund raisers & activities.
18. My attendance. (meetings per year - See Q. D)

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Best
	1	2	3	4	5
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.	Yes: _____		No: _____		
14.					
15.					
16.					
17.					
18.	Number of meetings I attend per year.				__/12

**You may also contact your Long Range Planning Committee Member**

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### Surveys may be returned:

1. By mail. Please include postage. Simply, tape and drop in the mail or...
2. Drop into the flag collection box located outside the Legion Hall or...
3. E-mail Response to: See below:

- Ryan Chambers – chambers6784@gmail.com
- Matt Semke – matthew.k.semke.mil@mail.mil
- Julie Nelson – madmagbel@gmail.com
- Calvin Manske – calmansk@outlook.com
- Mike Callan - mjcallan@hotmail.com

Questions A. What can we do to hang on to existing members?


Questions B. What can we do to attract new and younger members?


Questions C. I am a member of Post 116 because:


Check One:	<input type="checkbox"/> I attend.	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't attend	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Question D. I attend or don't attend meetings because:


Question E. Your opinion is valuable. We welcome your additional comments and suggestions.


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

- Your name will only be used by the committee and will not be released to anyone else.
- I do  I do not  want to be contacted about my opinion expressed.

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN  
PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
PREAMBLE

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

*Please note: Only one newsletter, electronic or mail version, is sent to each Legion family household.*

*Copies may be made for each Legion, SAL, and ALA member of Post #116.*

*Thank you for your participation!*

Affix  
postage  
here

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American Legion Post #116  
Long Range Planning Committee  
P.O. Box 314  
Coon Valley, WI 54623 - 0314