



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



August 2017

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2



Commanders Message:

Greetings to the Coon Valley American Legion Family:

This month we will be having our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony that honors our departed comrades from the past year. This year we will be honoring the memory of Larry J. Torgerson, John Sisbach, Jr., and Leo Lusk. The ceremony starts at 7:00 p.m., followed by a meal. Please try and attend this important event. A short meeting will follow the meal if deemed necessary.

The Post voted at the July meeting to increase the loan application at the River Bank from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the installation of a new walk-in cooler and to make needed repairs to the clubrooms sewer system. Please attend the meetings or watch the newsletter for updates.

August is National Convention month. Past State Commander Roger Mathison and Post Commander Frank Mathison will be attending the convention in Reno, Nevada. This is an exciting year for Wisconsin because the leading candidate for National Commander is Denise Rohan from Wisconsin. This will be a very busy year for all the delegates assisting in the election of Denise. She will be the first female National Commander, and will make us all very proud.

Membership is now due!!! Thanks to everyone who have already paid their dues. Please take care of this task as soon as possible. I've always maintained it's a lot easier to pay your dues in the summer or fall, instead of waiting until winter when there is heating bills, Christmas bills, property taxes, etc. You will help your post tremendously by taking care of this right away. Do it now! Thank you!

Coming up next month, we will be joining Chaseburg Post 202 and Coon Creek VFW Post 10532 at the Chaseburg Legion Hall September 11th at 6:30 p.m. for our annual Flag Disposal Ceremony. Everyone is welcome to attend this impressive ceremony, and the Chaseburg post puts on an excellent meal afterwards.

Thank you,

Frank Mathison, Commander Post 116

DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 16th** Post Everlasting Ceremony, 7:00pm with meal following with family and friends
Lunch Committee: Rod and Deb Ofte
Regular Post Meeting at 8pm only if necessary
- August 23rd** SAL Regular Meeting at 8pm
- September 5th (Tues)** Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30pm - Tuesday after Labor Day
- September 6th** Auxiliary Monthly Meeting - Pot-luck Meal at 6:00pm, Meeting at 6:30pm
- September 10th** Cashton Fall Festival Parade - 12:30pm start
- September 11th** Flag Disposal Ceremony, 6:30pm - Chaseburg American Legion
- September 13th** Vernon County Meeting in Hillsboro, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm
- September 20th** Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal, meeting at 8:00 pm
Lunch Committee: Roger Mathison
- September 20th** SAL Regular Meeting at 8:00pm
- September 30th** Auxiliary Conference at Sparta Post 100, 8:00am - 3:00pm
- October 2nd** Legion Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- October 17th** Vernon County Meeting in Stoddard, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm

August Newsletter

2017 - 2018

Last Bugle:

James Hammes

Norman Oliver

* Not a Post 116 member



BUCKET DRAWING

July \$10

Eugene Danielson
(Not Present)

August Drawing
Will Be \$20

50/50

Rueben Starch
\$70

Legion \$75



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116

Commander: Francis Mathison
(608) 606-0156

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

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

2018 Paid Membership - 70ish

2017 Membership Goal-192

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,

First I want to thank everyone that went on the Brewers bus trip. It was a good time even though the Brewers lost! Second, I want to say thank you to the members that help before during and after to make these Brewer bus trips the success that they are. Our next meeting will be scheduled for August 23rd @ 8 pm at the Legion hall. The everlasting ceremony is on August 16th so we are rescheduling. We will discuss the Brewers bus trip, memberships, Halloween party and a brat/ hot dog feed? See you then.

Cal Manske,

SAL Commander



Message from Auxiliary President:

I want to begin by thanking everyone for their incredible support while I have served as your Auxiliary President. Our organization has such an important purpose, and it has been a pleasure to work with all of you. I will look back on these 6 years as President fondly, because everyone has been so kind and helpful.

So again, thank you.

There is an Auxiliary Conference on September 30th in Sparta, from 8 am until 3 pm. Sessions include Report Writing, Meeting Protocol, Civility, Americanism, National Security, Poppy, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. If you are interested in attending this conference, please let one of our officers know or come to the Sept 6th meeting.

We had election of officers in July. Congratulations to the following: Vice President: Becky Lind, Secretary: Ellie Brye, Treasurer: Nancy Miller, Membership Chairperson: Gloria Freitag, Sgt-at-Arms and Chaplain: Mary Elsen, Historian: Joyce Temp. These are wonderful officers and please support them in their duties.

The only officer position which remains to be filled is President. Since I will not be President for 2017-18, this leaves us with a position to fill. It is a position which receives great support from the other officers and members of our unit, and everyone wants this unit to succeed. Please consider stepping forward to help our unit when we are so desperately in need of help. We will all support you and will not let you fail.

Thank you again for letting me serve you and this Auxiliary Unit as President for 6 years. I cannot thank you enough for your support.

Please attend the September meeting on Wednesday, Sept 6th with potluck at 6pm and the meeting at 6:30 pm. Thank you.

Sincerely, Julie Nelson

Vernon County Veterans Service Office (Jim Young & Crystal Knoll) 608-637-5323

(veterans@vernoncounty.org)

The Senate passed the “Forever GI Bill” legislation recently that is the largest expansion of veterans educational benefits in a decade. With senators’ unanimous consent, the bill moves to President Trump’s desk to become law. This will end a 15-year limit for veterans to use their educational benefits, restore benefits to veterans whose schools abruptly close and fix a Pentagon deployment authorization that has kept about 5,000 reservists from accumulating earned educational benefits.

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 -- named after the Past American Legion National Commander -- was introduced July 13 in the House, passed through the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on July 19 and approved in the House as a whole with a 405-0 vote on July 25. It was introduced in the Senate on July 20 and passed through the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on July 26.

There were many hurdles to negotiate earlier this year, such as how to fund the \$3 billion that the measure is expected to cost in the next 10 years. This measure is a combination of 18 different bills and negotiations had broken down between veterans organizations and Congress. But veterans organizations would not let this go and reignited the momentum for GI Bill Expansion by contacting Congress and Senate members and urging action on this measure.

The bill has widespread support among veterans and higher education organizations. It has been dubbed the “Forever GI Bill” because it removes the 15-year deadline to use educational benefits. That restriction will be gone for veterans who were discharged on or after Jan. 1, 2013. The bill also eliminates “Post-9/11” from the GI Bill’s title.

E-Mail Receipt of the Coon Valley American Legion Newsletter

As always, we are trying to find ways to be minimize 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 Gary 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 send “in the blind” to protect members’ privacy and are kept in the strictest confidentiality.

2017 WINNERS

WESTBY/COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL DAILY \$50 RAFFLE WINNERS

July 1	Wayne Dwyer	July 17	Cal Manske, Chaseburg
July 2	Peggy Fortun, Westby	July 18	Lucille Theige, Westby
July 3	Brad Engh, Onalaska	July 19	Andy Lipski, Westby
July 4	Jill Strangstalien, Westby	July 20	Rod Engh/Shelly Fauske, CV
July 5	Garrick Olerud, Westby	July 21	Orin Larson, Westby
July 6	Leon Borck, Coon Valley	July 22	Bonnie Peterson, Chaseburg
July 7	Sam Cummer, Westby	July 23	Gary Daines, Westby
July 8	Justin Wedwick, Westby	July 24	Marilyn Bland, Westby
July 9	Sharon Sharratt, Westby	July 25	Shirley Aarness, Westby
July 10	Janice Blihovde, Westby	July 26	Seth Barstad, Westby
July 11	Rox Dwyer, LaCrosse	July 27	Patty Meurer, Coon Valley
July 12	Greg Servais, Coon Valley	July 28	Dawn Haakenson, Westby
July 13	Susan Anderson, Westby	July 29	Sherman Erlandson, Westby
July 14	Kari Hanson, Westby	July 30	Kevin Steenberg, Westby
July 15	Seth Barstad, Westby	July 31	Shayna Davey, Westby
July 16	Mark Luebke, Westby		

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and thanks to all who sold tickets. It was much appreciated by the team, coaches and players.



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

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American Legion Regional Baseball Tournament

As many of you are aware, the American Regional Baseball Tournament had to be relocated from Coon Valley to Prairie du Chien due to the July 19 & 20 flooding of Coon Creek that left the ballfield under 4-5 feet of water and debris. This resulted in Westby/Coon Valley to have to make at least a 100-mile round trip every day of the tournament. The boys won 21-9 against Fennimore in the first round, lost to Viroqua 4-8 in the second round, beat Crawford 5-2 in the third round, and lost a close one again to Viroqua 3-4 in the final day of competition. Prairie du Chien won the Class A Regional Championship by beating Viroqua 11-2.

Two local teams who did well at the State Tournament were Holmen and West Salem, who both won state championships in their divisions. West Salem went on to take second place in the Division 2 Central Plains Regional Tournament in Wahpeton, ND, losing to Pierz, MN 5-3.

Troutfest

Much like the regional baseball tournament, Troutfest was severely affected by the flooding in July and had to be cancelled. We sincerely hope that they recovered all that was lost in the flooding, including their information booth, which was uprooted from its footings and floated downstream, after getting caught up on the Hwy 14/61 bridge across the creek. We look forward to partnering with Troutfest again next year.

Endorsement for National Vice Commander

A resolution was passed at the Wisconsin State Convention to endorse Roger P. Mathison from Post 116 as Wisconsin's Candidate for National Vice Commander. The way this works is Roger will be a Vice Commander Candidate several years down the road. Roger has been representing Wisconsin and Coon Valley Post 116 at National Convention for many years and is well-known among the American Legion national leadership. This is a great honor to have a National Officer from our post. Congratulations, Roger!