



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



September 2017

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 3



Commanders Message:

Roger & Sandy Mathison and Judy & I have just returned from a very successful National American Legion Convention in Reno, Nevada. Our new National Commander is Denise Rohan from Verona, Wis. And our new National Auxiliary President is Diane Duscheck of Markesan, Wis. Roger Mathison was an official member of Denise Rohans' campaign committee, and had the honor of standing behind her with the rest of the committee on stage as she took the oath of office.

President Trump was at the convention and signed "The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017" into law. He was there to "thank The American Legion for getting this done." He also said "The American Legion has a lot of power and they use it well." The bipartisan bill H.R. 2288 was crafted with much input from The American Legion. It is expected to shorten the average wait time for final appeal decision from 5 years to 125 days. This was the first time in history a President of the United States signed a bill into law at an American Legion Convention.

The 7th District Fall Conference will be held on Saturday, October 07, 2017 at Stoddard Post 315. Details for interested parties will be provided at our post meeting.

A check in the amount of \$500.00 has been received from the family of deceased Post member Jim Hammes of Onalaska. The family was extremely grateful and impressed that 16 members turned out on a beautiful Saturday morning to pay final respects to Jim. I would also like to thank everyone who showed up, and especially Sgt-at-arms Dan Hofslie for making it happen.

Our next meeting will be on Weds. Evening, September 20. There will be an update on the cooler and sewer project. I'm surprised anybody would want to stay home when they know we're discussing such exciting things as the sewer!!!

See you at the meeting!

Thank you,

Frank Mathison, Commander Post 116

DATES TO REMEMBER

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 7th	7th District Fall Conference at Stoddard Post 315
October 17th	Vernon County Meeting in Stoddard, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm
October 18th	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal, meeting at 8:00 pm Lunch Committee: Fishin' Crew
October 20th	SAL Regular Meeting at 8:00pm
October 28th	SAL Spook Night and Village Pub Crawl
November 1st	Auxiliary Meeting with pot-luck meal at 6:00pm and meeting at 6:30pm
November 6th	Legion Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
November 10th	Veterans Day Observance at C.V. Elementary, Westby H.S. and Norseland Nursing Home
November 12th	Annual Veterans Day Chicken Q
November 15th	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal, meeting at 8:00 pm Lunch Committee: SAL

September Newsletter

2017 - 2018

Last Bugle:

James Hammes
Norman Oliver

* Not a Post 116 member



BUCKET DRAWING

August \$20

John Thurk
(Present)

September
Drawing Will Be
\$10

50/50

Not held due to
Post Everlasting



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 - 115

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,

Well, fall is here. Where did the summer go! Well at our next meeting on Sept. 20th @ 8 pm we will discuss and finalize plans for our Halloween party in October. We will also talk about the memberships and finances.

Calvin Manske
S.A.L. Commander



Message from the Auxiliary:

For the past six years, with Julie at the helm, our meetings and events have run as smooth as silk. It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we thank her for serving as President of our Unit. Unfortunately, we are still in need (make that desperate need) of a new President. If you are willing to fill this position, there are seven other officers willing to help you.

We recently lost one of our faithful members, Jan Raasch, who was a 45-year member of our Unit and we extend our deepest sympathy to her family. We also send our sympathy to Phyllis Galstad and family in the death of her daughter, Sheryl Pederson. Both families are in our thoughts and prayers.

The emblems we ordered are here and most of them have been distributed. If you don't have yours yet, please contact Ellie at 452-3549.

You should be receiving your membership renewal in the mail this month. Please return it to Gloria as soon as possible – let's be a 100% Unit. Not only is your membership important but your attendance at meetings is important, too. We have 59 members with an average of nine members at the meetings – and that includes Junior members (usually four). You do the math. We need you!

Since we will not be meeting in October, it's not too early to mention our Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 5, at the Stockyard. Please call Lenore Henley at 452-3109 for your "early bird reservation."

See you at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 1. Potluck at 6 pm; meeting at 6:30 pm. We have invited our 2017 Badger Girls State Representative, Allison Davidson, to attend the meeting to give us highlights of her week at UW-Oshkosh last June. It would be wonderful if we had a large group to welcome her.

Ellie Brye, Secretary

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

(veterans@vernoncounty.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/Vernon-County-Veterans-Service-Office-244550219077062/>

VA Unveils Claims Submission Option That Promises to Complete Claims Within 30 Days

On September 7th, as part of the VA's continued efforts to improve timeliness of services for Veterans and their families, the VA unveiled the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) initiative, a disability claims submission option with accredited Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) that promises to deliver faster claims decisions to Veterans and their families.

The DRC initiative is a collaborative effort between the VA and VSOs to help Veterans receive faster decisions on disability claims, according to VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin. According to Shulkin, the VA will work closely with VSOs to make sure they are properly trained in the new process and are given the tools they need to participate successfully in the program on behalf of the Veterans that they serve.

Veterans who choose to submit their claim under DRC can expect to receive a decision within 30 days from the time the VA receives the claim. VSOs will ensure all supporting evidence is included with the claim submission. This advance preparation by the VSOs allows claims to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a quick decision.

DRC was first implemented May 1, 2017, at the St. Paul Regional Office and is now available at all VA regional offices. While the DRC is currently limited to claims for increased compensation, and requires Veterans to work with VSOs, the VA's goal is to expand the types of claims accepted under the initiative and allow Veterans other ways to submit their claims under DRC.

DRC is another key step in aggressively modernizing the VA's benefits delivery to Veterans in a fully digital operating environment. With electronic claims processing as a foundation, the VA's innovation will improve service to Veterans, their families and survivors.

Ihle Memorial Bench

Orlin and Lauren Ihle came to the Executive Committee Meeting on September 5th to discuss placement of a memorial bench for Ozzie and Annette. They also met with the Coon Valley Veterans Memorial Committee. Both committees agreed to recommend placement on Legion property in the vicinity of the retaining wall next to the Veterans Memorial. This will be discussed and brought up for a vote at the September regular post meeting.

December Raffle

The Executive Committee voted to recommend revamping the December Raffle. This will be discussed at the September regular post meeting. Parts of the discussion were to hold the event at the Legion hall, to decrease the amount of tickets sold due to the lower capacity of the Legion hall, to change the payout scale due to the lower ticket sales, and to form a committee that will organize the event and increase member participation in the event. Other discussions for future consideration were to make this a more elite event were to have a premium meal choice, such as prime rib, and to potentially self perform the meal preparation rather than catering it out. With the capital improvement projects that we have in the works, this event needs to be successful and member participation needs to be of utmost importance. The last few years have not been the best for profit and for member participation. This is our major fundraiser of each year and the funds raised at this event go towards the building fund.

August Vernon County Raffle Winners

The following winning tickets were drawn at the August Vernon County Meeting

\$50.00 Robert Wruck

\$25.00 Harold Olson

\$25.00 Paul Benson

\$15.00 Charles Nelson

\$10.00 Stoddard American Legion Auxiliary



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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American Legion Booth at the Vernon County Fair

Hopefully most of you who get the newsletter mailed to you will receive your newsletter prior to Sunday. That is when Coon Valley Post 116 will be sitting at the Legion Booth at the Vernon County Fair. This is a valuable marketing tool for the American Legion in Vernon County as we often get leads for possible members. So if you read this and have some free time, grab your Legion garrison cap and head on over to the booth at the fair. Maybe our comrades there could use some help.

Refrigerator For Sale

Do you need a refrigerator for your man cave, garage or just to replace your existing refrigerator? A couple months ago we purchased a larger commercial refrigerator for our kitchen, which leaves us with the “old” refrigerator to depart with. If you would like to place a bid or purchase the old refrigerator outright, please contact Commander Mathison. It is in good shape and was serving us quite well but we just needed more refrigerator space.

New National Commander

Pictured at right is Post 116 Commander Mathison with newly sworn-in National Commander Denise Rohan from Verona, WI. In addition, Wisconsin is further represented at the National level by National Sgt. At Arms Roy Helms from Oshkosh.

