



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



December 2017

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 6



Commanders Message:

Merry Christmas Coon Valley American Legion Family

Our meeting on Wednesday, December 20, will be a family night event. We are inviting all Unit 116 Auxiliary members and the SAL to join us. The Candy Pack will start promptly at 6:30 p.m., not before. That will be followed by a meal around 7:30, followed by fellowship and a discussion about the direction of our Post. Please come and join us for a fun evening.

We have had two important fundraiser since our last newsletter. Thank you to everyone for making both of them a huge success. We made a little over 250 halves of chicken for our Veterans Day Chicken Q, and we sold out by 1:00 p.m. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success. We had a lot of compliments on the chicken.

Special thanks go out to our \$75.00 Raffle Party Chairmen, Charlie Nelson, Steve Nelson, and Mike "Fuzzy" Miller. They were very persistent in selling tickets, and for the first time in several years all 200 tickets were sold!! Great going everyone. Thank you to the ticket sellers, and to every member that purchased a ticket. The meal was provided by Classic Catering of La Crosse, and we received many compliments on the food. Congratulations to all the winners!

We have another important announcement to make. Robert Kerska has made a very substantial donation toward our remodeling project. He paid for the entire bill submitted by Hammes Refrigeration concerning the walk-in cooler in the amount of \$13,060.00! He made the donation in memory of his parents, Ed and Anna Kerska. Ed was a WWI veteran and a charter member of Post 116, and Anna was a charter member of Auxiliary Unit 116. A plaque recognizing these people will be attached to the cooler as per Robert's request. Please thank Robert when you see him.

Merry Christmas and I hope to see you on December 20.

Frank Mathison, Commander Post 116

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 20th	Family Night: CANDY PACK at 6:30pm, meal at 7:30pm, socializing and merriment Lunch Committee: Officers
December 21st	Santa Day! Meet at Legion at 8:30am, Shut-ins at 9:00am and school at 1:00pm
January 2nd	Executive Committee Meeting (first Monday is New Years Day)
January 11th	Vernon County Meeting - Viroqua. Meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm
January ??	Vernon County Oratorical Contest (if candidates available) - location TBD
January 17th	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal, 8:00pm meeting Lunch Committee: Charles and Steve Nelson
January 19th-21st	Department Midwinter Conference at Ho Chunk Convention Center, Baraboo
January 21st	Chaseburg Trail Days Parade
February 2nd	Present Colors at the Opening Ceremonies at the Westby Ski Jump
February 4th	Super Bowl Sunday Breakfast
February 5th	Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
February 7th	Auxiliary Meeting, Pot-Luck at 6:00pm, Meeting at 6:30pm

December Newsletter

2017 - 2018

Last Bugle:

James Hammes

Norman Oliver

Leon Minor

Howard Moilien

* Not a Post 116 member



BUCKET DRAWING

November \$40

Jack Fletcher

(Not Present)

December

Drawing Will Be \$50

50/50

Dan Hofslie \$65

Legion \$65



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 - 149

2018 Membership Goal-195

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 won't have a meeting this month, but if possible, come and help the Legion pack candy on Wed. Dec 20th at 6:30. Afterwards, the Legion officers will be serving a meal. The current membership drive is going well. If you haven't renew your membership yet, contact Mike Miller. I want to thank everyone for a very successful year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Cal Manske

S.A.L. Commander



Message from the Auxiliary:

AUXILIARY NEWS

On Thursday evening, November 16, Ellie B., Joyce T., and Nancy M. accompanied Legion members to Tomah for "A Night at the Races." It was a privilege to help and a great reminder to thank our Veterans for their service at every opportunity. It also takes a large staff and group of volunteers to maintain the VA and they deserve a thank you, as well.

Fourteen members (9 adults, 5 jr. members) enjoyed supper at the Stockyard for our annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 5.

We do NOT meet in January so our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 7 with potluck at 6 pm followed by our meeting at 6:30 pm. We serve the Legion Birthday Party in March so we will be planning that event at the meeting.

Have you renewed your membership?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!

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/

The Vernon County Veterans Service Office will be increasing some of the costs of travel to VA sanctioned appointments. Current costs are: La Crosse=\$5, Tomah=\$10, Madison=\$20, other location's costs disclosed at the time of the appointment.

As of February 1st, 2018 the costs will increase for VA sanctioned appointment trips to La Crosse and Tomah. New rates will be: La Crosse=\$10, Tomah=\$15, Madison=\$20. If your VA appointment is in another location, the cost per trip will be given to you upon notification of the Vernon County Service Offices of your VA sanctioned appointment.

Note: The Veterans Service Office ONLY provides travel to VA sanctioned appointments, which includes Veterans Choice appointments. Some veterans who have numerous or continuously ongoing appointments may see different charges based upon their situation.

2017 December Raffle Winners

\$2500	Richard Engh, Golden Beach OR	\$1000	Darin Berg, Coon Valley	\$500	Joanne Fletcher, Coon Valley
\$250	Beverly Langston, Sparta	\$150	Tom Nedvidek, Stoddard	\$150	Brad Role, Coon Valley
\$150	Roger Peters, Chaseburg	\$150	Greg King, Coon Valley	\$150	Syl King, Coon Valley
\$75	Ken Kammel, LaCrosse	\$75	Jeff Berg, Westby	\$75	Phil Hewitt, Readstown
\$75	Steve Clemment, Westby	\$75	Chris & Tracy Wills, Sparta	\$75	Torne Tryggestad, Viroqua
\$75	Dean Blegen, Westby	\$75	Kurt & Rhonda Helgeson, Coon Valley		
\$150	Early Bird Drawing	Monte & Shirley Hagen, Westby	50/50	Donald Kammel, Coon Valley	

Donated Winnings

After winning the top prize in our December Raffle, Richard Engh donated the entire \$2,500.00 back to the Legion! Thank you Richard! Your support is humbling and much appreciated. This will certainly help us in our remodeling project!

Cooler Update:

The new cooler is installed and operational! The floor is repaired and re-tiled. The side cabinet has been reinstalled under the pass-through window. We still need to do some painting, fur out some wall space and install ceiling grid and new ceiling tiles, but there has been real progress made. Thank you to everyone who donated their time to this effort! If you haven't seen the cooler yet, show up for the Legion Family Night and Candy Pack, December 20th!

As Commander Mathison mentioned in his Commander's Message, we were presented with a significant donation of over \$13,000 to cover the Hammes Refrigeration invoice by Mr. Robert Kerska in honor of his parents Ed & Anna Kerska. This is an amazing donation and will go a long way towards the entire project. If you see Bob out and about, please take the time to thank him for his donation and support!

Second Raffle Item at November Meeting

A huge shout-out to Wes Guy for donating a custom made knife to raffle off as an incentive for members being at the meeting. SAL member Bryan Berg was the lucky ticket holder for this drawing! Thank you Wes and congratulations Bryan!

Vernon County Banquet

The Vernon County Banquet will be hosted by Post 116 on March 3rd, 2018. Our main speaker will be Past National Vice Commander David Gough. We will be preparing the meal. The executive committee recommends hiring a bartender and to give away the head table flowers & gift certificates from the County's \$100 donation.

Two New Legionnaires to Welcome Aboard

We signed up two new Legionnaires at the Army-Navy Game on Saturday the 9th. Please join us in welcoming Jason Herron and Jody Kliscz to the Coon Valley American Legion Family! Welcome aboard, both of you!



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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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 Roger Mathison or one of the officers. It is in good shape and was serving us quite well but we just needed more refrigerator space. We had been temporarily using it since the cooler had been torn out, but it should be available now that the new cooler is installed.

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.

Proper Disposal Of The American Flag

There is a proper ceremony for the disposal of the American Flag, which usually involves collecting up all of the unserviceable flags, an inspection by the Sergeant at Arms followed by burning. Such an event was held on September 11th at Chaseburg Post 202. We had our flags retired at this ceremony. We collect flags from throughout the community through our flag disposal drop box. It is located in the parking lot at the southwest corner of the banquet hall. Please use this for disposing your flags and let your friends and neighbors know about this as well.

Army - Navy Game

The Navy showed great compassion for the Army for the second time in 15 years as Army won by 1 point. We had a nice crew of people at the Legion for the game. Stevie grilled up some brats, Charlie mostly bartended with a little help and everyone enjoyed trading good-natured ribbings about their rival services. We even signed up two new Legionnaires! It was a great game that came right down to the last play. Congratulations Army!