



# COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



SEPTEMBER 2013

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3



## Commanders Message:

I would like to thank everyone who helped out with the many events of the past month; Opening Ceremonies for the Regional Legion Baseball Tournament in Viroqua, Cashton Fall Festival Parade, 9/11 Memorial Observance and Flag Retirement Ceremony in Chaseburg, September Vernon County Meeting in Hillsboro, and the Vernon County Fair just to name a few. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

We have three Post 116 Legionnaires on the Freedom Honor Flight on September 21st. 7th District Commander John Thurk, Ken Kammel and Don Kammel will be going to Washington D.C., which is going to be a day they will never forget. The flight usually takes off between 8:00 and 9:00 AM and returns generally between 9:30 and 10:30 PM. We will have a contingency there to see them off and to welcome them back, so if you are available, please join us!

Other major events that we will be discussing at this month's meeting are the November Pork Feed and the December Raffle. So, I look forward to seeing everyone at the regular post meeting!

**Gary M. Hess**

**Commander Post 116**

<b>September 18th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal and 8:00pm meeting Lunch Committee: Roger Mathison
<b>September 21st</b>	Freedom Honor Flight
<b>September 23rd</b>	SAL Meeting - 7:00pm
<b>October 7th</b>	Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
<b>October 7th</b>	Auxiliary Meeting (Monday!)
<b>October 12th</b>	7th District Fall Conference - Necedah
<b>October 15th</b>	Vernon County Meeting at the Stoddard Legion
<b>October 16th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal and 8:00pm meeting Lunch Committee: Fishin' Crew
<b>October 26th</b>	SAL Halloween Party
<b>November 1st</b>	Pork Feed and Fun Night at the Coon Valley Legion (may be changing??)
<b>November 4th</b>	Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
<b>November 6th</b>	Auxiliary Meeting
<b>November 11th</b>	Veteran's Day
<b>November 20th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal and 8:00pm meeting Lunch Committee: S.A.L.
<b>December 2nd</b>	Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
<b>December 7th</b>	December Raffle - Coon Valley Village Hall
<b>December 18th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal and 8:00pm meeting Lunch Committee: ???????
<b>January 17-19th</b>	Mid-Winter Conference in Baraboo.

# September Newsletter

2012-2013

Last Bugle:

John Nerison  
Willfred Bushek  
Jacob Ward\*

\* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET  
DRAWING**

Lee Rudie  
Not Present

September  
Drawing will be:  
**\$30.00**

**50/50  
DRAWING**  
James Hammes  
**\$55.00**

\* The Legions portion of  
the drawing is put to-  
wards the building  
fund\*



## COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116

Commander: Gary M. Hess  
(608) 452-2261  
Adjutant: Charles E. Nelson  
(608) 452 - 3018

Post 116 Newsletter is pub-  
lished monthly as a service  
to our members. If you wish  
to submit an article for a fu-  
ture edition, please contact:  
Charles Nelson  
(608) 452 - 3018  
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

2014 Paid Membership - 111  
2014 Membership Goal - 200

On the web:

[www.coonvalleywialpost116.org](http://www.coonvalleywialpost116.org)  
Webmaster - Don Salter: [dwsalter@gmail.com](mailto:dwsalter@gmail.com)

### From the Adjutants Desk:

The Post 116 Constitution and By-Laws committee has begun work on a draft to bring forward at the November meeting for review.

### Pork Dinner and Family Fun Night

Our annual Pork Feed and Family Fun Night is coming up in November. There has been some discussion about changing from a Friday night to another night due to usually having quite a few conflicting events on this night. Come to the meeting with your ideas and we can decide to keep it as is or make some changes.

### December Raffle, Saturday December 7th

Roger Mathison will co-chair this event. We are looking for someone to help Roger. The tickets need to be printed and distributed by no later than the October meeting since the early bird drawing will be at the November meeting. There will once again be only 200 tickets sold, at \$75/couple, which should not be hard to do!



### Message from S.A.L. Commander:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 23rd @ 7:00 pm. Topics to discuss will be memberships, Halloween party and a bus "road trip". Please attend if possible.

The Halloween Party will be on Saturday, October 26th.

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



### Message from Auxiliary President:

A warm hello to all of you.

We had a great meeting on September 4th. Thanks to all who attended.

Gloria, our Membership Chairperson, indicated that dues reminders will be sent out soon for our 2014 dues. Please keep an eye out for this.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 7th - please note the change in date.

Our November meeting will be as scheduled on November 6th.

We hope to have our Badger Girls State delegate attend one of those meetings and report on her experience at Badger Girls State!

Hope to see all of you at our October meeting!

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

## **Vernon County American Legion**

Thanks to everyone who traveled to the Vernon County meeting in Hillsboro on September 11th.

Vernon County Drawing winners from September: \$50 Mark Williams, \$25 Michael Miller, \$25 Pete Swanson, \$15 Post 155, \$10 Evelyn Dahlen.

## **Flag Disposal Ceremoney**

Thanks to all of the members who where present at the Flag Disposal Ceremony in Chaseburg on September 11th. It was also a time to reflect on the terrible events that occurred on 9/11.

## **Service Awards**

It is once again time to begin thinking about who we can nominate for the Service Awards from our community. A motion was made and accepted at the August Vernon County meeting to create a First Responder of the Year award that will be recognized at the Post and the County Level, similar to the Teacher of the Year award. The other awards are for EMT of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and Legislator of the Year.

## **Wall Covering**

The curtains and frames have arrived and have been put in place to allow renters of the Legion Hall to cover up the Preambles on the back wall of the Banquet room. The curtains match the Navy blue color of the American Legion.

## **Active Duty Map**

We are looking for names and information to update our active duty map hanging in the banquet hall. Please help us with this!

## **Post Everlasting**

The name of Verlyn Larson was regrettably not listed in the last newsletter as one of our departed comrades who was honored at the Post Everlasting held at the August meeting.

## **Tree Trimming**

John Thurk has talked to Mike Schedivy about trimming the trees on the Legion property back by the Veterans Memorial. Mike has quoted a cost of roughly \$300.00 if we help him out with some of the work. This will occur in the next couple of months.

## **Freedom Honor Flight - September 21, 2013**

Post 116 has 3 members who will be participating in the flight. John Thurk, Ken Kammel, and Don Kammel. We should all try and send them off and welcome them back!

## **Vernon County Veterans Service Office**

Tami Saleska is the Benefits Administrator for the Vernon County Veterans Service Office. Tami is a Gulf War Veteran and she and her husband our members of Coon Valley Post 116. The address for the Veterans Service Office is 402 Courthouse Square, Banta Bldg. Suite 100, Viroqua, WI 54665. Office: (608) 637-5323 or (608) 637-5327. Fax: (608) 638-2327 Tami can also be reached via email at [tami.saleska@vernoncounty.org](mailto:tami.saleska@vernoncounty.org)

Congratulation goes out to Tami on getting her accreditation with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs! Tami said ".....it feels great.....only 7 more to go..."

Tami Saleska reminded everyone enrolled in the VA health system, to make sure that if you need to go to a civilian hospital for an emergency, to notify the staff that you are in the VA health system. This will prevent being stuck with a large bill.

## **Coon Valley Area American Legion Baseball Team**

An opportunity for the Coon Valley American Legion to become the sponsoring Post for the current Westby Area American Legion baseball teams was presented and discussed at the August Regular Post meeting. A motion was made and seconded at the August meeting for the Coon Valley American Legion to pursue this opportunity and sponsor American Legion baseball! The Coon Valley Legion has been a major sponsor for the Westby Area baseball team in recent years so the responsibilities are expected to remain roughly the same.



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

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### **Membership**

As you can see we are well on the way of meeting our 100% membership goal. Our goal this year is 200 paid memberships of which we have already had 111 turned in. **This is a great time to thank everyone who has already turned in their memberships. It often feels like we put a lot of time and effort into getting everyone renewed and never look back to thank our members who make it so easy on us. I would like to say THANK-YOU!**

Saying that however, ..... for those that have not turned in your membership, please get your membership renewal sent in as soon as possible.

Please look into renewing online. They have made it easy for all!

### **Roof update**

We are still working on paying off the loan we had to take out to put the roof on our building. The loan currently stands at \$14,959.20. Thanks to everyone who has helped us raise money through fundraisers, or has donated to this cause. We have been really blessed to receive some significant donations!

### **Vernon County Fair - September 12-15**

Thanks to the group of members that manned the Vernon County American Legion booth at this years Vernon County Fair. This is one of the few Community activities that the Vernon County American Legion gets involved in, so it is very important to get our presence in front of the community. Also, all of our members should be very proud that they have allowed our Post to donate an American Legion flag to give away at the Fair for many, many years.

### **Flag Disposal Box**

Remember that we have a flag disposal box mounted on the Legion Building in the parking lot near the Veteran's Memorial. We just participated in the annual Flag Disposal Ceremony in Chaseburg and it is a very dignified way to dispose of worn flags. Please collect and bring in flags so we can properly dispose of them.