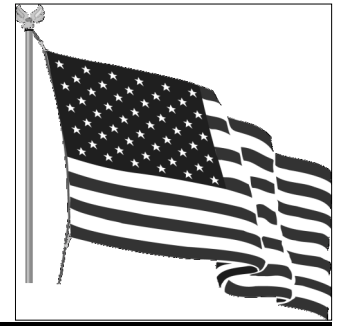




COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



August 2014

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2

Commanders Message:



Greetings all! Summer is moving along at a fast pace and everyone is busy with farming, family, friends and life in general, which is why I am extremely grateful to everyone who works so hard to make our Legion Post successful. There are a lot of moving parts and many hands, heads and hearts contribute to the operations of the Post. It can not be done without each and every one of you. For this you have my eternal gratitude and admiration.

This month we will solemnly observe our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony in order to honor the veterans from our Post and immediate community who have reported to the Post Everlasting during the past year. Our schedule will be a little out of the ordinary, so please check the schedule below.

We had several Post 116 members attend the Department Convention in Appleton, one of which is new Department Vice Commander John Thurk. Congratulations John!

We have several events coming up in September that I would like to remind you all of. September 10th is the County Meeting in Hillsboro. September 11th will be the annual flag retirement ceremony in Chaseburg, that we observe in conjunction with Post 202 and VFW Post 10532. There are more events going on in September, so please check the schedule below for more details.

Annual membership renewals have been sent out in July. For those of you who have already sent in your renewals, THANK YOU! So far we are over 50% renewed! I have a personal challenge to all Legionnaires of Post 116: If we get 100% renewals by December 31st, I will personally host a dinner party at the Legion Hall sometime in late winter as a reward! Let's get those renewals in and make the Commander part with some of the moldy money in his wallet!

I look forward to seeing everyone at this month's meeting and at all of the upcoming events!

Gary M. Hess
Commander Post 116

August 20th	Post Everlasting Ceremony, 7:00pm with meal following with family and friends Lunch Committee: Gary Grethel
	Regular Post Meeting at 8:00pm or appropriately when the meal is finished.
August 25th	SAL Meeting at 7:30pm
September 1st	Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm - unless change for Labor Day!
September 3rd	Auxiliary Meeting - 7pm Potluck & 7:30pm Meeting
September 7th	Cashton Fall Festival Parade - 12:30pm start
September 10th	Vernon County Meeting - Hillsboro 8:00 pm
September 10-14th	Vernon County Fair - Post 116 works on Sunday
September 11th	Flag Disposal Ceremony, 6:30pm - Chaseburg American Legion
September 17th	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm Lunch Committee: Roger Mathison
September 20th	14th Freedom Honor Flight
October 6th	Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm
October 11th	7th District Fall Conference - Black River Falls Post 200 at 9:00am, by Armory
October 15th	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8:00pm Lunch Committee: Fishin' Crew
October 21st	Vernon County Meeting at the Stoddard Legion

AUGUST Newsletter

2014-2015

Last Bugle:

James Miller*

* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET
DRAWING**

**Lester Gilbertson
Not Present - \$10**

**August
Drawing will be:
\$20.00**

**50/50
DRAWING
Steve Vance
\$63**

* The Legions portion of the drawing is put towards the building fund*



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:
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

2015 Paid Membership - 102

2015 Membership Goal - 196

On the web:

www.coonvalleywialpost116.org

Webmaster - Don Salter: dwsalter@gmail.com

From the Adjutants Desk:

- ◇ I want to send out a large thank-you to Frank Mathison for submitting the recent pictures of our Post activities to the Westby Times. What a great way to get information out about our wonderful Legion Post. Thanks Frank!
- ◇ What a privilege it was to have Viki Burgemeister back in the area and attend the Vernon County meeting in Westby. She was even nice enough to join us for an adult beverage after the meeting!
- ◇ My family and I also joined Al and Viki for dinner one evening while they were back, and what a joy it was to talk to two people that appreciate being members of our Post (Legion and SAL), and who promote Post 116 wherever their travels take them. We reminisced about many of our memories helping at the numerous Legion functions throughout the prior years, and I know everyone of them brought smiles to our faces. Viki told a story about one of the first parades she participated in, carrying the American Flag, and the pride she felt representing our Legion and our great Nation. Along the route, a small girl noticed Viki and exclaimed, "Look, it's a girl!". What perfect icing on the cake! Viki, thanks for your service! I tell this story, to open up our eyes to some of the great things we can do as Veterans and members of the American Legion. Take the time to get involved!



Message from S.A.L. Commander:

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. We will have a meeting on Monday, August 25th @ 7:30 pm. Topics to discuss include a Halloween party, memberships, etc.

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



Message from Auxiliary President:

A warm hello to all of you. Thanks to everyone who attended the August meeting. We discussed a lot of topics, and we will continue our discussion next month.

We hope to have our Badger Girl's State Delegate speak at our September meeting.

Gloria announced that 2015 dues notices will be sent in September. A change for 2015 is that dues must be paid by Jan 31st. So please make a note to pay your 2015 dues to Gloria before Jan 31, 2015.

Your Auxiliary membership is so important to your Unit, your fellow members, Coon Valley Legion Post 116, other veterans, and the community as a whole. The Coon Valley American Legion Auxiliary does many great things throughout the year, and you can be proud to be a member. So thank you for your continued membership and dedication.

Our next meeting is September 3, 2014. Pot luck at 7 and meeting at 7:30. We hope to see you there!

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

Vernon County Veterans Service Office (Jim Young and Tami Saleska)

Veterans Benefits Expo – 21 August 2014 – 11:00am to 6:00pm @ Logistics Health Inc., 328 Front St. South, La-Crosse, WI 54601.-----Services and resource available for state, local and federal Benefits-----Determine eligibility to apply for state, local and Federal benefits-----Connect with Local employment Reps-----Navigate Educational Opportunities-----Submit Military Records requests and discharge review-----Learn about Wisconsin Veterans Homes and Cemeteries-----Engage with the Federal VA Regional Office.

There will be 3 workshops presented throughout the day by Wisconsin Procurement Institute on Veterans starting their own business.

Please contact Jim Young or Tami Saleska with any VSO questions at 608-637-5323.

Flag Disposal Ceremony

Our annual Flag Disposal ceremony that we participate in with the Chaseburg Legion will take place on September 11th. Let’s have a great turnout. Be at the Chaseburg Legion Hall by 6pm.

Vernon County Fair - September 10-14

The Coon Valley American Legion will work at the Vernon County American Legion Booth at the Fair on Sunday, September 14 from about 10am to 6pm. It would be really nice if we could get a few members to work from 10am to 2pm and a second handful of members to work from 2pm to 6pm (or whenever things start closing up).

NATIONAL COMMANDER DAN DELLINGER’S MESSAGE:

In an unprecedented year, I testified four times before Congress. Most notably was my testimony on May 15 alongside former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki only 10 days after The American Legion’s call for his resignation. Testimonies before Congress and the hundreds of media interviews conducted by national staff and myself regarding Shinseki’s resignation and the VA scandal that plagued several facilities put the Legion’s name at the top.

Our name right now is at the forefront of all veterans service organizations. We’ve been given an opportunity, and it’s up to us to capitalize on that now. If we want to keep a place at that table in front of Congress to make sure our veterans are taken care of, it’s called membership numbers. The calling for Shinseki’s resignation and the Legion’s fight to assist veterans that have been affected by delayed access to VA health care has resulted in an increase in membership. I had a gentleman walk up to me in Wisconsin who said he hadn’t paid his membership dues in five years. But after what we did to stand up for our veterans, he was going to pay his dues. That’s what I’m hearing around the country.

I also know that the call for Shinseki’s resignation created some pushback from our members. Louis Celli, director of the Legion’s Legislative Division, said to me, "For those members who threaten to drop their membership, I would say to them, ‘We’re not asking you to join for you, we’re asking you to join and remain a member for those men and women who are coming home today who need our assistance. We’re asking you to support this organization so we can continue to support our returning veterans, our aging veterans, and our veterans of all wars.’"

If we don’t continue to grow our membership, who is going to take care of our veterans? We have a big responsibility. It isn’t the cost of war, but it’s that 50 years of care for our veterans afterward. That’s our charge.

\$50 winners in the Westby/Coon Valley American Legion Fundraising Raffle

1 Don Hess	12 Pat Effinger	22 Bob Withington
2 RogerNiedfeldt	13 Pat Stafslie	23 Teresa Helseth
3 Ron Hole	14 Gilman Gronvold	24 George Navrestad
4 Marvin Lee	15ArlynJorstad	25 Karen Solverson
5 SteveHolte	16 Roxie Dwyer	26 Darlene Larson
6 JasonHundt	17 Rollin Johnson	27 Margaret Veum
7 Barb Wolfe	18 Mark Seland	28 Teena Olson
8 Michele Meyers	19 Kevin Steenberg	29 John Harnish
9 Marypat Peterson	20 Cheryl Mossholder	30 EvelynDahlen
10 Cindy Janiero	21 Luanne Hoff	31 RodOfte
11 Tom Schreier		



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

 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

2014 State Convention - Appleton, WI - July 17-20

Department Vice Commander



The 96th Annual State Convention was held in Appleton on July 17-20. Post 116 members that attended were Past Wisconsin State Commander Roger Mathison, Past Wisconsin State Historian Frank Mathison, 7th District Commander John Thurk, Post 116 Commander Gary Hess, and Adjutant Charles Nelson.

Post 116 member, John Thurk, was elected to the high office of Wisconsin State Vice Commander. Frank Mathison did a wonderful job giving John's nomination speech on the Convention floor. John will have responsibility for Districts 7, 8 and 10 for the upcoming year.

Congratulations Wisconsin State Vice Commander John Thurk!!

The new Wisconsin State Commander is Bob Shappell from the 2nd District.

Vernon County Drawing (August) Winners:

Thanks to everyone who helped sell the 100 tickets for the Vernon County Raffle!

\$50 – Bryan Berg-----\$25 – Ron Miller-----\$25 - Kenneth Budde-----\$15 – Philip Downing-----\$10 – David Grewkobj

2014 Coon Valley/Westby Area American Legion Baseball

Congratulations to the Coon Valley/Westby American Legion baseball, Senior and Junior teams, on another successful season. Thanks to State Baseball Commissioner Roger Mathison for all he does for the kids!