



# COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



JANUARY 2014

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 7



## Commanders Message:

Greetings and welcome to the New Year. I hope that your holidays were wonderful and blessed. 2013 was a busy one for Post 116, as usual, and 2014 looks to be just as exciting. I would like to thank everyone who has done so much for the post over the years. It is truly amazing to see what a dedicated group that we have.

That being said, our membership renewal numbers are not where they should be. Please look at your Legion membership card. If it does not say 2014 on it, you are not current on your membership. Please attend to this matter immediately by contacting First Vice Commander Michael Miller and taking care of this matter directly, by mailing in your dues with your renewal notice that got sent in the mail, or by going online to [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org), click on "My Legion" at the top center of the page, and when the next page loads up, click where it says "MembersClickHere", follow the instructions to create your own legion page and to renew your membership online.

Please look over our upcoming events list below for important dates to remember. We have a lot going on in the near future and we will need as much participation as we can muster up.

Once again, thank you for the honor of serving with all of you in the American Legion. I look forward to seeing everyone at the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting if I don't see you before then!

**Gary M. Hess**

**Commander Post 116**

<b>January ??</b>	Vernon County Oratorical Contest - Stoddard American Legion Post 315
<b>January 16th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal and 8:00pm meeting Lunch Committee: Steve Nelson and Charlie Nelson
<b>January 19th</b>	Chaseburg Trail Days Parade.
<b>January 17-19th</b>	2014 Midwinter Conference - Ho-Chunk Hotel and Convention Center - Baraboo
<b>January 27th</b>	SAL Monthly Meeting, 7:00pm
<b>January 31st</b>	Present Colors at Opening Ceremonies of the Westby Ski Jump
<b>February 2nd</b>	Four Chaplain Sunday
<b>February 2nd</b>	Superbowl Sunday Breakfast
<b>February 3rd</b>	Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
<b>February 5th</b>	Auxiliary Meeting - 7pm potluck and 7:30pm meeting
<b>February 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Lion's Vegas Night
<b>February 19th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal and 8:00pm meeting Lunch Committee: Ron Miller & Mike Miller
<b>February 22nd</b>	Baseball Association Chicken-q fundraiser
<b>March ??</b>	Vernon County Banquet - Stoddard American Legion Post 315
<b>April 13th</b>	Palm Sunday Breakfast

# January Newsletter

2013-2014

Last Bugle:

John Nerison  
Willfred Bushek  
Jacob Ward\*  
Mike Brown  
Howard Hofslie



**BUCKET  
DRAWING**

Erik Rude  
Not Present

January  
Drawing will be:  
**\$70.00**

50/50  
DRAWING  
Larry Hass  
**\$50.00**

\* 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

2014 Paid Membership - 163  
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:

- ◇ Commander Hess presented Elnore Haugen with an engraved metal lifetime membership card from all the members of Coon Valley Post 116.
- ◇ Thanks to all the members who showed up at the December meeting for the Candy Pack and Fruit Basket preparation. This is always a fun night!
- ◇ Thanks to Mike Perkins and Roy Stephan for their help again this year. These guys are told the dates for the Santa events each year and they just run with it, which is very much appreciated! Thanks guys!
- ◇ The Palm Sunday Breakfast is April 13th.

### The American Legion Department of Wisconsin, 2014 Midwinter Conference

The 2014 Midwinter Conference will be held January 17-19, 2014 at the Ho-Chunk Hotel & Convention Center, S3214 Highway BD, Baraboo, WI 53913. To register for the 2014 Midwinter Conference go to the Wisconsin State American Legion website( [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org) ) and fill out a registration form. The cost is \$25/person.

This year there will be a Rhino's Midwinter Team Building Ball at 7pm on Saturday. The special guest speaker will be Guy Gruters. Guy Gruters was raised in New Jersey. He accepted a bid to the Air Force Academy and graduated with a B.S. in Engineering Science. After Pilot Training and gunnery school, he volunteered for Vietnam and served six years in Vietnam, more than five years as a POW. Guy will share team building that he learned from the best team he was ever with, his POW team.



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

I hope that this article finds everyone staying warm during this cold blast! This year I am going to have a monthly meeting on the last Monday of each month. We will meet on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Coon Valley Legion Hall. Topics to discuss are 1) Bean bag tourneys, 2) Annual Brewers bus trip, 3) Memorial Day activities – Coloring Contest, etc. Please try to attend because there will be a lot to discuss! Remember first beverage is on me!!

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



### Message from Auxiliary President:

There is no January meeting. Therefore, our next meeting is on February 5th, 2014 with a 7:00p.m. potluck and a 7:30 meeting. Happy New Year to everyone!

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

## **5-Year Increment Pins**

Thanks to the members who showed up and were recognized for achieving a 5-year milestone in the American Legion. If you would still like to receive your pin, I will bring the pins along to the January meeting. If your 2014 membership card “years of continuous membership” ends in a 0 or a 5, come get your pin.

## **Roof update**

The loan currently stands at around \$5,500.00. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to paying down this considerable amount of debt.

## **2014 Vernon County Banquet**

The 2014 Vernon County Banquet will be held at Stoddard American Legion Post 116. We are still awaiting the date.

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

“KOREA REBORN: A Grateful Nation Honors War Veterans for 60 Years of Growth”

To commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War, the Wisconsin Departments of Military Affairs and Veterans Affairs are partnering to distribute a special book to those veterans who served in that conflict.

“Korea Reborn: A Grateful Nation Honors War Veterans for 60 Years of Growth” is available for free to Korean War Veterans or family members as a gift of gratitude from the Korean government. The hardbound, full-color, 175 page commemorative is provided to honor these great veterans and the families for their service and sacrifice.

These books are available at the Vernon County Veterans Service Office. These will be given to Korean War veterans at this time only, on a first come first basis, we initially received 20 books and have some left, but are expecting another order sometime in January 2014. Please contact Jim Young or Tami Saleska at 608-637-5323.

## **Paid Up For Life (PUFL) has never been easier**

American Legion members interested in the discounted Paid Up For Life program can now easily join online: [www.legion.org/join/pufl](http://www.legion.org/join/pufl)

Legionnaires who become a Paid Up For Life member will avoid any future increases to membership dues and will never have to pay annual dues or receive renewal notices. Other benefits include a lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine.

Once registered, members can either pay in full or pay in 12 monthly installments. Members may also print a personalized Paid Up For Life application from the web page and mail in their payment. Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

For more information about the Paid Up For Life program: call (800) 433-3318 or email [ia@legion.org](mailto:ia@legion.org)

## **Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) update**

The American Legion's mission, in part, is to represent your interests on Capitol Hill. As a nonprofit organization, we do not have the luxury of being able to influence lawmakers with campaign support, or the promise of bringing grants, contracts, or jobs to their districts. The only power we have is the power of voter voice – nearly 3 million voter voices, and that's where you come in.

As you may know, we are currently working on getting the one percent military retiree Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) reduction provision of the recently passed budget repealed. This provision penalizes military retirees one percent of their COLA every year until they reach age 62. At that time, the provision adjusts their reduction to the full amount of their COLA, but doesn't replace the lost income. Aggregated, this loss of income can be between \$70,000 and \$120,000 over the lifetime of the retiree.

What we believe is happening now is congressional leaders are taking a lot of heat over the COLA issue, especially because they neglected to parse out the medically retired veterans who were separated from the military due to life-long catastrophic injuries. In an attempt to appear as if they are addressing the whole issue, it looks as if Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is planning on allowing an amendment to an upcoming bill that would address the COLA issue by only fixing it for medically retired veterans, leaving the rest of the retired veteran community, about 1 million retirees, to single handedly give the government back a portion of their retirement checks in order to help roll back the cost of sequestration. Most important to note is that this is the ONLY group being asked to give money out of their pockets that will never be returned.



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**COON VALLEY POST No. 116**  
**PO BOX 314**  
**COON VALLEY, WI 54623-0314**  
  
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**Super Bowl Sunday Breakfast - Sunday, February 2nd**

	<b>7:00-10:00am</b>	<b>10:00am-1:00pm</b>
<b>Cooking Scrambled Eggs</b>	Roger Mathison Charles Nelson	Steve Vance Dennis Kammel
<b>Cooking Pancakes</b>	Chuck Lind Ron Miller	Harlan Helseth Michael Miller
<b>Cooking Sausages</b>	Stuart Peterson Dan Hofslie	Rolv Ihle Steve Nelson
<b>Tables, Beverages, Coffee</b>	Sherman Olson Jeff Hanson Mary Schmidt Ron Hoff Ken Kammel Don Kammel Herb Cornell	Tom Elson Tom Sharratt Don Salter Roger Starkey Reuben Starch Wally Cox Carl Holte
<b>Cashier</b>	Frank Mathison	James Hammes
<b>Bartender</b>	Rod Ofte (9:00am to noon)	
<hr/>		
<b>Cleanup ( 11:00 - 1:00 )</b>	Steve Nelson Gary Grethel	Michael Miller <b>Need additional volunteers to stay &amp; help!!!</b>
<b>Jack of all trades:</b>	Commander Gary Hess	