



# COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



April 2015

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 10



## Commanders Message:

Spring is here! March brought several events that were very successful. Thank you to the ladies of our wonderful Auxiliary for serving a very fine meal at the Vernon County meeting. You ladies always put on a great feast for us. Speaking of the Auxiliary, we all owe them a huge thank you for presenting us with a check in the amount of \$1692.00 in order for us to pay off our roof loan! So if you happen to see one of our Auxiliary members, make sure you show your appreciation!

Palm Sunday breakfast was well attended by the community despite some slippery roads early in the morning. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this event a success.

We have many events coming up in the next couple of months, so please put the dates below on your calendar so that we can have maximum participation.

Lastly, pending some verification, it appears as though we might have reached our goal of 196 membership! I want to thank everyone who took time to make some phone calls and some road trips to visit members to take care of their membership renewals. I especially thank 1st Vice Steve Nelson and Adjutant Charlie Nelson for their contributions to this effort.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 15th at 8:00 with a meal beforehand at 7:30. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

**Gary M. Hess**  
**Commander Post 116**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>April 15th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm Lunch Committee: C. Lind & R. Starkey
<b>April 15th</b>	SAL Meeting at 8pm
<b>April 27th</b>	Vernon County meeting in Ontario
<b>May 2nd</b>	Freedom Honor Flight out of La Crosse
<b>May 4th</b>	Executive Committee meeting at 6:30pm
<b>May 6th</b>	Auxiliary meeting with potluck at 6 p.m. and meeting at 6:30
<b>May 8-9th</b>	Department Spring Meetings - Portage
<b>May 9th</b>	SAL Brewer Bus Trip vs the Chicago Cubs, leaves Legion at 11:00am
<b>May 16th</b>	Armed Forces Day at Fort McCoy
<b>May 17th</b>	Syttende Mai Parade - Westby - begins at 1:30pm - we will be marching
<b>May 20th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm Lunch Committee: Ken Kammel
<b>May 25th</b>	Memorial Day Parade and Program - Main Speaker - Fred Berns from Whitehall WI
<b>May 27th</b>	Vernon County Meeting - Chaseburg - 8:00pm
<b>June 1st</b>	Executive Committee meeting at 6:30pm
<b>June 1st</b>	VA&R, CPR, & Children & Youth Reports due at State!
<b>June 17th</b>	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm

# April Newsletter

2014-2015

Last Bugle:

James Miller\*  
Howard Holen  
Rodney Berg, Sr.\*  
Ervin Jacobson  
Leon Kogut  
Thelmer Johnson

\* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET  
DRAWING**

**Jeffery Olson  
Not Present**

**April  
Drawing will be:  
\$80.00**

**50/50  
DRAWING  
None**

**Legion None**

\* 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 - 196  
2015 Membership Goal - 196

On the web:

[www.coonvalleywialpost116.org](http://www.coonvalleywialpost116.org)

Webmaster - Don Salter: [dwsalter@gmail.com](mailto:dwsalter@gmail.com)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Please make your check payable to C.V. Legion Post 116 in the amount of \$30.00 and send to:  
Coon Valley American Legion Post 116  
PO Box 314  
Coon Valley, WI 54623

### Adjutant Notes:

The 2015 Wisconsin State American Legion Convention will be held July 16-19 in Appleton, WI at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel. There will be a Legion Baseball Tournament held at the American Legion Post 38 field in Appleton. There will be shuttle buses to and from the Radisson and Appleton Post 38. Thursday will be the sub-committee meetings and DEC meeting. Friday will be District Caucuses, the General Session and Convention Committee meetings. Saturday will be the General Session and Election of Officers. Sunday will be the installation of the new Officers.



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

Our next meeting will be on April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 pm while the Legion is having their meeting. The S.A.L. meetings will be on the same night as the Legion meetings from now on. Tickets are still available for our bus trip when the Brewers play the Cubs. The game is on May 9<sup>th</sup> with the bus leaving at 11:00 am. Contact me for tickets.

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



### Message from Auxiliary President:

A warm hello to all of you. Thanks to everyone involved in organizing/making/serving the meal for the Legion County meeting in March. As always, it was a very fun night. Thanks to everyone for wearing patriotic colors too.

Gloria once again beautifully decorated the Easter baskets for our local home-bound. Thanks to all who helped deliver them!

We presented a check for over \$1600 to Commander Gary Hess at our April meeting to pay off the Legion roof loan. We are very proud of this accomplishment and happy to help our Legionnaires pay off this loan.

Thanks to everyone who is working on poppies for this year. We will discuss these more at our May meeting. This is the first year that poppies do not have a year label on them. This way, we no longer have to destroy unused poppies.

We will further discuss plans for Memorial Day at our May meeting. We are looking forward to preparing another great meal and we are hoping for beautiful weather this year!

Election of officers occurs in June, so please try and attend our very important upcoming meetings.

Our next meeting is on May 6<sup>th</sup>, with potluck at 6 p.m. and meeting at 6:30. We look forward to seeing you there! Thanks.

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

## **Service Awards**

The following two Vernon County Service Award recipients have been forwarded onto the 7th District for consideration and possible advancement to the State competition.

Firefighter of the Year: Jeffrey T. Matson, nominated by Stoddard

Law and Order Award: Travis Sutton, nominated by Viroqua

## **Roof update**

THANK-YOU AUXILIARY FOR PAYING OFF THE ROOF LOAN!

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE BEEN TRULY BLESSED WITH NUMEROUS SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PAYOFF OF THE LOAN! THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR MAKING THIS A SUCCESS!!!

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

On August 7, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) ("VACAA"). Technical revisions to the Choice Act were made on September 26, 2014, when the President signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175).

In March 2015, VA announced the expected expansion for eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program by changing the calculation used to determine the distance between a Veteran's residence and the nearest VA medical facility from a straight line distance to driving distance.

### **Summary**

One of the current eligibility criteria for the **Veterans Choice Program** is based on the distance calculation using the *straight line* distance from a Veteran's home to the nearest VA medical facility. Under VA's plan for expansion, this criterion will change to the *driving distance* calculation between the Veteran's home and the nearest VA medical facility.

For example: Under the new distance calculation, a Veteran who lives less than 40 miles, straight line distance, from the nearest VA medical facility, but who needs to physically drive more than 40 miles to get there would be eligible for the Veterans Choice Program. Under the previous straight line distance calculation, this Veteran would not be eligible for the Program unless they were waiting for an appointment longer than 30-days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician.

VA is expanding the eligibility determination in order to increase Veterans access to high quality, timely healthcare. VA looks forward to continued collaboration with Veterans and our partners to ensure the success of the Veterans Choice Program.

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

## **State American Legion Riders**

The first meeting of the year for the State American Legion Riders was held in District 7 at American Legion Post 138 in Viroqua on February 7th. Elections were held and with only one candidate nominated for each position a vote was not needed. District 7 Vice President Gary Hess was elected to the State Vice President position! Congratulations to Post 116 Legionnaire Gary Hess! The guest speaker for that evening was Denise Rohan, who has been endorsed for the office of National American Legion Commander.

## **Coon Creek Trout Fest 2015**

The Coon Creek Trout Fest will be held again this summer. This year the Legion will be hosting vendors inside the building that will be part of the Trout Fest. The Coon Valley Legion would like to thank Frank Mathison, our representative on the Trout Fest committee, for keeping us abreast on the happenings at the monthly meetings.

## **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. Get a new flag in time for Memorial Day!!

## **Memorial Day 2015**

The Main Speaker for our Annual Memorial Day Program will be the honorable Fred Berns. Fred is a judge in Whitehall and the current director of the Wisconsin American Legion Badger Boys State.

## **Badger Boys State**

Travis Schmitt is our 2015 Badger Boys State representative. His parents are Chuck and Denise Schmitt.



**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»

### **Children & Youth Month is APRIL**

The American Legion has celebrated "April is Children & Youth Month" for the past 77 years by supporting and promoting its national theme – "Children... Our Most Precious Natural Resource." During this month of celebration, American Legion family members are encouraged to show their local communities the Legion's commitment to young people by hosting youth activities or by becoming involved in programs and organizations that support young people.

For ideas on how to support and promote Children & Youth Month in your community, download a copy of the "April is Children & Youth Month" brochure. Legion family members can promote Children & Youth Month awareness through their local newspapers, radio and TV stations, civic groups, schools, social media, and in conversations with other veterans and their families. Communities need to know that American Legion services are available and why young people matter so much to us.

### **89th Annual American Legion Baseball World Series**

ESPN will expand its live coverage of The American Legion World Series (ALWS) to broadcast two semifinal games, Aug. 17, on its ESPNU channel in addition to the championship game on Aug. 18.

The four days of "pool play" leading up to the semifinals will continue to be aired by ESPN through its webcasting service - ESPN3.

The two semifinal games will be shown on ESPNU at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. EDT on Aug. 17, and the championship airs at 7 p.m. the following day on the same channel.

From Aug. 13-16, three games of "pool play" - pitting each of the eight regional champions against each other - will be streamed live daily on ESPN3.com at approximately noon, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

ESPN's announcement that it will air the semifinal games of the 89th Annual American Legion Baseball World Series is an expansion of the relationship between ESPN and The American Legion. That relationship began in the summer of 2011, when the sports network streamed each of the series games online. The American Legion and the Shelby (N.C.) Baseball World Series Committee inked a five-year contract last year with ESPN for the broadcasting giant to televise the ALWS championship game.