



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



February 2015

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 8



Commanders Message:

Welcome to February! The days are getting longer and it is getting a little warmer, and even though winter does not seem to want to loosen its grip on good old Coon Valley, we anticipate spring coming soon. We had some great things going on in the last month and I want to thank everyone who put forth the extra time to make those events a success. The Chaseburg Trail Days Parade, the Snowflake Ski Jump and the Vernon County Banquet were all very successful events that we participated in or hosted. I know that these events take time away from our families and homes, so the effort is special and much appreciated.

We are getting closer and closer to meeting our 100% membership goal, so if you have not renewed your membership for 2015, please take care of this matter. The American Legion relies on the membership of each and every one of us in order to go before Congress to fight for veterans' interests and benefits.

Remember, the February meeting will be on Thursday evening the 19th due to Ash Wednesday falling on the 18th. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Once again, and as always, it is my privilege to continue to serve our community, state and nation alongside all of you fine veterans, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion.

Gary M. Hess
Commander Post 116

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| February 19th | Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal and 8:00pm meeting (THURSDAY - Ash Wed) Lunch Committee: Ron Miller & Michael Miller |
| February 28th | Coon Valley Area Baseball Association 19th Annual Chicken-q fundraiser - 5pm |
| March 2nd | Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm |
| March 2nd | Auxiliary Meeting, potluck starts at 6:00pm and the meeting starts at 6:30pm |
| March 19th | Informal Post Meeting - 7:00pm (THURSDAY - Lent) Lunch Committee: Auxiliary - 7:30pm meal Vernon County Meeting - 8:00pm |
| March 21st | SAL Bean Bag Tournament - 1pm |
| March 29th | Palm Sunday Breakfast (work schedule will be in March newsletter) |
| April 6th | Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm |
| April 11th | SAL Bean Bag Tournament - 1pm |
| April 11th | 7th District Spring Conference Neilsville |
| April 15th | Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm Lunch Committee: C. Lind & R. Starkey |
| April 27th | Vernon County Meeting in Ontario |
| June 1st | VA&R, CPR, & Children & Youth Reports due at State! |
| June 18-21 | 2015 Spirit Run for the Legacy Scholarship Fund |
| July 15-19th | Department Convention - Radisson Paper Valley, Appleton, WI |

February Newsletter

2014-2015

Last Bugle:

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

* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET
DRAWING**

**James Torgerson
Not Present**

**February
Drawing will be:
\$60.00**

**50/50
DRAWING
Steve Nelson
\$43
Legion \$43**

* 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:

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Post 116
PO Box 314
Coon Valley, WI 54623
Phone Contacts:
Legion: (608) 452-3179

Membership Totals to Date

2015 Paid Membership - 183
2015 Membership Goal - 196

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 \$30.00 and send to:
Coon Valley American Legion Post 116
PO Box 314
Coon Valley, WI 54623

From the Adjutants Desk:

- ◇ A thank-you was read from Lester and Betty Gilbertson thanking the Legion and other organizations for the Christmas basket.
- ◇ Spirit Run this year in honor of Commander Shappell's theme – The motorcycle rally will be held prior to the State Convention. Coon Valley will be hosting an evening meal on June 19th. We are planning on having a chicken-q type meal. Probably about 100 half chickens.
- ◇ The 2015 Vernon County Banquet was held on Saturday, February 7th. Thanks to everyone who showed up that night and the extra time and effort put in by everyone. A special thanks to Roger Mathison and Ron Miller for cooking the meal!



Message from S.A.L. Commander:

Two bean bag tournaments are scheduled for March 21st and April 11th. The tournament will begin at 1:00 pm. Our Brewers bus trip should be a dandy this year. On May 9th, we will be going to see the Brewers vs. Cubs!! Flyers will be posted concerning these events in the near future.

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



Message from Auxiliary President:

Our Auxiliary Unit suffered a huge loss when Yvonne Berg passed away this month. She was an incredibly dedicated member of our Unit and served as Treasurer for many years. She joined the Auxiliary in 1966 and was a paid-up-for-life member. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family, many of whom are members of the Coon Valley American Legion family. Yvonne will be greatly missed by her fellow Post 116 Auxiliary members. Rest in peace Yvonne.

At our February meeting, we discussed the upcoming Legion meeting on March 19th where the Auxiliary serves our annual turkey dinner with all the trimmings. We divided up tasks – thanks to everyone who is helping! Please remember we can use help serving that evening. There will be more information about this in the March newsletter.

Because of Lent, our March Auxiliary meeting is on Monday, March 2nd at 6:30 p.m., with potluck at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

Service Awards

The Vernon County American Legion honored the Service Award winners at the Vernon County Banquet on February 7th. The Banquet was held at the Coon Valley Legion and the following individuals were honored:

Teacher of the Year: Mary Beth Marx, nominated by Coon Valley

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

Law and Order Award: Travis Sutton, nominated by Viroqua

Roof update

The loan currently stands at \$1,692.40 with our last payment due on 7/13/15. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to paying down this considerable amount of debt.

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

The Vernon County Veteran Service Office is happy to announce that a Veteran Mentor Program has been established, and they are in the process of looking for volunteers to mentor other veterans in their time of need. All volunteers will have to attend a 3 hour class that will be given at the Vernon County Veteran Service Office at a later date. All volunteers are preferred to have military experience. Please contact Tami Saleska at 608-637-5323 for more information or to volunteer.

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

Comfort Warriors gives 100% of donations back

The American Legion's Comfort Warriors gives 100% of donations to the hospitals and to individuals needing assistance from their wounds.

This is not to be confused with the Wounded Warrior Project. The following information is from a recent email (not sure everything is true, but it should entice you to investigate before making a donation).

"I recently pointed out in an article that I thought it was obscene that the executive director of Wounded Warriors is paid well over \$300,000-a-year. I also wondered how the group could afford to advertise as extensively as it does on Fox News.

But, I recently received an email from Dr. Richard Stiso that exposed exactly how the charity spends the money it receives from patriotic Americans. According to Guidestar, a group that investigates charities, the Wounded Warrior Project might as well be run by the Mafia. In 2012, the WWP received an astronomical \$154,958,901, with a measly \$4,857,084 going out in grants to veterans' organizations and \$671,194 to individuals. That means that the group only used 3.5% of the money it received for the purpose intended.

In the meantime, the Officers, Directors and Trustees hauled in \$15,415,666 million, with Employee Benefits (\$2,226,457), Office Expenses (\$12,451,303), Travel (\$4,086,509), Promotional Items (\$4,055, 567) and something called Outside Services (\$20,915,404) accounting for roughly 50% of what's listed as "Overhead Expenses."

Pass along to fellow veterans

Veteran Tickets Foundation, wanted to let you know about their great organization.

They give out free event tickets to all kinds of things all across the country.

Stuff like football, baseball, soccer, basketball, concerts, zoo passes, plays and more!

You can sign up using the following link. <http://www.VetTix.org/ref/252926>

When you do, and verify your service you will get an additional 15 VetTix Lottery Coins to start off with!

Coon Creek Trout Fest 2015

The Coon Creek Trout Fest will be held again this summer. As of yet, we have not heard any definite on what is being planned or what we may be asked to help with. I am sure that we will have some additional information that we can present at an upcoming regular monthly meeting so we can make an informed decision.

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

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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

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

Memorial Day 2015

It is that time of year again that we need to secure a Main Speaker for our Annual Memorial Day Program.

Westby Snowflake Ski Jump

Commander Gary Hess would like to thank all of the members of the Color Guard who presented Colors at the 2015 Snowflake Ski Jump. Thanks once again to Daryl Brye for warming us up as soon as we completed our presentation of Colors with some secret blend of apple juice!

Commander Hess put together a nice group consisting of members of the Coon Valley Legion, Coon Valley SAL, and the Chaseburg Legion. The Chaseburg members are a wonderful addition, and much fun!

How to Report VA Healthcare to the IRS this Tax Season

VA Healthcare enrollees, as well as spouses and surviving spouses enrolled in CHAMPVA, will be required to verify their healthcare coverage to the IRS this tax season. Questions are beginning to roll in to the CVSO office about how to report VA Healthcare and CHAMPVA coverage to the IRS in order to prevent a tax penalty under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obama-Care.

The official answer to the question above is: "Beginning in 2015, VA will send Veterans and eligible beneficiaries a letter and IRS form 1095B which will provide the details of the health care coverage provided by VA for the previous year. As required by law, VA also will notify the IRS."

To find more answers on your VA/CHAMPVA Healthcare and the ACA, go to:

<http://www.va.gov/health/aca/FAQ.asp>