



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



APRIL 2016

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 10



Commanders Message:

April is here, spring is in the air, the weather is beginning to draw us outside more and soon all the farmers among us will be in the fields bringing everything that signifies the commencement of planting season with it. We have a lot to do this spring as well around the Legion Hall to get it ready for Memorial Day, so I call on all of you to consider spending a little time helping out. We will have the floors cleaned and waxed soon, though we haven't set a date for that yet. When we have a day, we will put the word out and invite all who are able to lend a hand.

We had a successful Palm Sunday breakfast this past March 20th and I want to thank everyone who helped out. We had some work schedule changes and we had some people who were not on the schedule step in and backfill some of the open spots. So again, thanks to everyone.

I thank the ladies of the Auxiliary for the most excellent turkey dinner with all of the fixings at our Vernon County Meeting on March 16th. I always look forward to such fine cooking and gracious hosting that the ladies provide every year.

Memorial Day is right around the corner, so please keep that on your radar and pray for good weather so we can host our program by the Veterans Memorial, which we have not been able to do for several years now. Another event to keep on your calendar is the Westby Syttende Mai parade, which will be Sunday, May 15th. We could use all of the uniformed participants we can get, so please consider marching with the Post.

We are so very close to attaining 100% membership renewal this year that we can taste it, but we need the help of everyone to achieve this. If you know a qualifying veteran who does not belong to the Legion, please recruit them. If you know of someone who is on the fence for renewal, please encourage them to renew. If you know of someone who was a member and decided not to renew, please encourage their return to the Legion Family. It is through membership that we draw our strength in numbers.

We encourage participation in all of our programs and we could always use valued input for ways to make the Legion relevant to our younger veterans. If you have an idea or suggestion to that end, it is always welcomed.

We are also approaching officer elections in June. Nominations generally are in May. If you would like to take on a more active role in post activities, please consider nomination for an officers' position. It is not as hard as it sounds and you will have a wealth of experience to tap into if you have questions.

Please note that the May regular post meeting will be on the third Thursday, May 19th, in order to accommodate the Westby Area Educators use of the hall on the night we regularly have the meeting. We mistyped the date in the March newsletter as the 18th, so please note the change and please put this on your calendar!

Gary M. Hess, Commander Post 116

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 20th	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm Lunch Committee: Chuck Lind & Roger Starkey
April 23rd	7th District Spring Conference - Tomah Post 201 - Registration at 9am - Saturday
April 25th	Vernon County Meeting in Ontario - 7:30pm meal, 8:00pm meeting - Monday
May 2nd	Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm
May 4th	Auxiliary Meeting - Meal at 6pm - Meeting at 6:30pm
May 15th	Syttende Mai Parade - 1:30pm
May 19th	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm (THURSDAY!!) Lunch Committee: Kenneth Kammel
May 25th	Vernon County Meeting - Chaseburg - 8:00pm
May 30th	Memorial Day Parade and Program - Main Speaker - Fred Berns from Whitehall WI
June 1st	VA&R, CPR, & Children & Youth Reports due at State.
June 6th	Executive Committee meeting at 6:30pm
June 12th	Coon Valley Legion Chicken-Q
June 15th	Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm Lunch Committee: Steve Vance and Frank Mathison
June 17-19th	Commander Oatman's 2016 Run For Pride for the Legacy Scholarship Fund (motorcycling)
July 14-17th	2016 Department Convention - Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI
July 23rd	SAL Brewer Bus Trip - Brewers vs Cubs at 6:10pm

April Newsletter

2015-2016

Last Bugle:

Stephen Sapuder*
Howard Mathison
Lester Gilbertson
Virgil Lee*

* Not a Post 116 member



BUCKET DRAWING

Ron Hole
Not Present

April
Drawing will be:
\$110.00

50/50 DRAWING

None since it
was held by the
County Legion



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116

Commander: Gary M. Hess
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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

2016 Paid Membership - 191
2016 Membership Goal - 197

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

Adjutant Notes:

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!! The 3' x 5' flags are \$25.00.

Memorial Day 2016

The Main Speaker for our Annual Memorial Day Program will be retired Pastor Gary Daines from Westby. Gary is currently serving as the District Governor for the Lion's, among many other things.

The American Legion Department of Wisconsin Americanism and Government Scholarship

Westby Area High School graciously placed the instructions on how to access the Americanism and Government Scholarship Test in their daily announcements and it was also noted on the Coon Valley American Legion Facebook page. It will be interesting to see if any Westby High School students participated and better yet if any of them won scholarships.



Message from S.A.L. Commander:

Well is spring finally here? Wisconsin weather is never boring! Our next meeting will be on April 20th @ 8 pm at the Legion hall. After the meeting a poker game might develop so come join in. Our annual Brewers game is on July 23rd. Our beloved Brewers will take on the Cubs. Call Brad Role or myself to sign up.

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 Birthday in March. As always, it was a very fun night. Thanks to everyone for wearing patriotic colors too.

Gloria once again created the Easter baskets for our local homebound. They were beautiful and very much appreciated. We have received several thank you notes from recipients. Thanks to all who helped deliver them!

Thanks to everyone who is working on poppies for this year. We will discuss these more at our May meeting.

All the menu items for Memorial Day have been decided and all food and beverages will be purchased by our food committee. We need all the workers we can get. Please plan on being at the Legion at 9 a.m. to help. **We also need cakes again this year – we always appreciate the delicious cakes you make to be served on this day.** 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 4th, with potluck at 6 p.m. and meeting at 6:30. We look forward to seeing you there! Thanks.
Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

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

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

Coon Creek Trout Fest 2016

The Coon Creek Trout Fest will be held again this summer. The Legion will again be hosting vendors inside the building as part of the Trout Fest. The Coon Valley Legion would like to thank Frank Mathison, our representative on the Trout Fest committee.

The American Legion may not become involved in partisan political activities.

This is made crystal clear by 36 US Code §21706 (part of The American Legion Corporate Charter), which states:

“The corporation shall be nonpolitical and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office.”

This is further emphasized by the provisions of Article II, Section 2 of the National Constitution which provides:

“The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.”

The American Legion takes positions on issues and lobbies for veteran’s benefits and a strong America. This is clearly permitted. What is not permitted is the endorsement of any candidate or the donation of funds by The American Legion to a candidate. The American Legion takes positions on issues and its members being citizens need to be informed on the issues. Hence, American Legion programs such as candidate nights are fully authorized as long as all candidates are invited on the same terms and conditions. It would be illegal to invite the one you support with advance notice, but the one you oppose with no notice at all. When Legionnaires wear their pins and hats to political rallies, the media often try to reach the wrong conclusions. This can be very embarrassing to the Legionnaire. Hence, we normally recommend that Legionnaires do not wear their caps to partisan political rallies. There is no rule against doing this so long as the Legionnaire makes it clear there is no endorsement.

Likewise, we recommend that Legion publications not accept paid political ads. However, if they do, the paid political advertisements must be made on the same terms and conditions for all candidates and should be labeled “Paid Political Advertisement” at both the top and bottom.

As noted above, those who violate the partisan political activities prohibition put the Legion charter of their post at risk as well as its tax exempt status.

Commanders Message continued

We would like to form a Long Range Planning Committee consisting of 3 non-officer Legionnaires, 1 non-officer Auxiliary member and 1 non-officer SAL member. The committee is intended to provide suggestions for future growth of the post buildings and grounds as well as membership and fundraising. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next regular post meeting if you are interested. Or just contact me or Adjutant Charlie.

Have you heard about the Legionnaire Insurance Trust? It is a \$5,000 accidental death member benefit that is NO COST to the legionnaire. If you suffer a fatal covered accident while you are traveling to or from any event conducted for Legion business, your beneficiary will receive a check from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. There are other benefits for other covered accidents. The benefit is available to all legionnaires, all you have to do is sign up. You may sign up online by going to <https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare> or you can fill out a paper form and mail it in. We have forms available at the legion hall.

A huge thanks to everyone who do so much behind the scenes to make our post function as well as possible and to make our events a success. It is truly humbling for me to see that dedication and hard work bring everything together like clockwork.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on April 20th.

Badger Boys State

Travis Schmitt was the 2015 Badger Boys State representative and we are awaiting word on who the 2016 representative will be.

Badger Girls State

Annika Olson was the 2015 Badger Girls State representative and Danielle Knight will be the 2016 representative.

2016 Westby Norsemen Baseball

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent/Location</u>	<u>Game Time</u>
April 18	@Arcadia (DH)	4:00
April 22	DE SOTO	5:00
April 25	@Riverdale	5:00
April 26	LUTHER	5:00
April 29	GET (DH)	4:00
May 2	VIROQUA	5:00
May 3	@Aquinas	5:00
May 5	@Black River Falls	5:00
May 6	@Bangor	5:00
May 9	COCHRANE FOUNTAIN CITY	5:00
May 10	@West Salem	5:00
May 14	WESTBY TOURNAMENT	



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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On the Lighter Side

An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter checks his dossier and, not seeing his name there, accidentally sends him to Hell. It doesn't take long before the engineer becomes rather dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell. He soon begins to design and build improvements. Shortly thereafter, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. Needless to say, the engineer is a pretty popular guy. One day, God calls Satan and says: "So, how are things in Hell?" Satan replies: "Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, and escalators. And there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next." "What!" God exclaims: "You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have been sent to Hell. Send him to me." "Not a chance," Satan replies: "I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him!" God insists: "Send him back or I'll sue." Satan laughs uproariously and answers: "Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?"

What's the difference between an H-bomb and an atomic bomb?

A hydrogen bomb is much more powerful--more powerful than anything North Korea has tested before. The tests North Korea conducted until now used fission weapons, which break large atoms like plutonium, into smaller atoms. Such weapons can have a devastating impact (Hiroshima & Nagasaki). But hydrogen bombs use fusion, which take small atoms and combine them. The result: a bomb that is hundreds of times more powerful than an atomic bomb. Here's why: In order to combine the small atoms and start a fusion reaction, such a bomb needs a large amount of energy. And that energy comes from an atomic bomb inside the hydrogen bomb. So, basically, a hydrogen bomb causes two separate explosions.

Lawnmower

There will be discussion in regard to purchasing a new lawnmower at the April Regular Legion meeting.

Children & Youth Month is APRIL

The American Legion has celebrated "April is Children & Youth Month" for the past 78 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.