



# COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



MARCH 2016

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 9



### Commanders Message:

Greetings and Happy Birthday Post 116 Legion Family! March 1st marked the 95th anniversary of the establishment of Coon Valley American Legion Post 116. This is a significant milestone that we take great pride in and exemplifies the our tradition of commitment that we have to our area veterans and the community.

We seem to have made it through another winter and spring is right around the corner. Pursuant to that, we have a lot of work to do around the post in order to spruce it up and get the building and grounds in ship-shape. Please consider donating some time to this effort. There is no shortage of maintenance items to be accomplished.

We had another bit of exposure recently when we presented colors for the Great Northern Sno-Cross Races at the Snowflake Ski Club. Thanks to Fuzzy, Bernie and Mary Jo for helping with that.

Our annual Palm Sunday Breakfast is coming up on March 20th. Please check the work schedule in this newsletter. If you cannot make it, please find a person to fill in for you. If you are not on the schedule and are able to help out, please do so. Just look around and if you see an area that could use some help or just look one of us up and we will find a position that could be filled. We always have a

lot of fun in the kitchen. Honestly!

Last, but certainly not least, our March meeting will be at 7:00 pm and will be informal, not to exceed 30 minutes in length. We will be hosting the Vernon County meeting at 8:00 pm with a nice turkey dinner between the two meetings prepared by the ladies of our Auxiliary. I always look forward to this fine meal, so thank you ladies in advance!

Once again, I look forward to seeing everybody at the meeting! Remember, the meeting is on Thursday night, March 17th due to Lent.

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 17th** Informal Post Meeting (if needed) - 7:00pm (THURSDAY - Lent)  
Lunch Committee: Auxiliary - 7:30pm meal  
Vernon County Meeting - 8:00pm
- March 20th** Palm Sunday Breakfast at the Legion Hall
- April 4th** Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm
- April 4-15th** Americanism & Government Test accessible online
- April 6th** Auxiliary Meeting, Potluck 6:00pm, Meeting 6:30pm
- 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 - Saturday
- April 25th** Vernon County Meeting in Ontario - 7:30pm meal, 8:00pm meeting - Monday
- May 2nd** Legion Executive Meeting at 6:30pm
- May 18th** Regular Post Meeting, meal at 7:30pm, meeting at 8pm  
Lunch Committee: Kenneth Kammel
- June 1st** VA&R, CPR, & Children & Youth Reports due at State.
- June 12th** Coon Valley Legion Chicken-Q
- 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

# March Newsletter

2015-2016

Last Bugle:

Stephen Sapuder\*  
Howard Mathison  
Lester Gilbertson  
Virgil Lee\*

\* Not a Post 116 member



**BUCKET DRAWING**

Lorence Pinski  
Not Present

March  
Drawing will be:  
**\$100.00**

**50/50 DRAWING**

Ryan Chambers

**\$62.00**

Legion \$63.00



## 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

2016 Paid Membership - 191  
2016 Membership Goal - 197

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:

- Welcome to new member Jeff Hanson!

### 2016 Westby Norsemen Baseball

Date	Opponent/Location	Game Time
Mar. 26-April 2	Disney Spring Training/Orlando	
April 5	RICHLAND CENTER	5:00
April 7	@Viroqua	5:00
April 8	SPARTA	5:00
April 12	BLACK RIVER FALLS	5:00
April 15	WEST SALEM	5:00
April 18	@Arcadia (DH)	4:00
April 22	DE SOTO	5:00



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

Well the weather is warming up which means that baseball spring training is underway. The S.A.L. annual Brewers bus trip will be on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Brewers will be playing the Chicago Cubs @ 6:10 pm. Reserve the date on your calendar. The S.A.L. will be having a meeting in the near future. Day and time pending. I will contact everyone when the meeting will be held.

Cal Manske, SAL Commander



### Message from Auxiliary President:

A warm hello to all of you. March certainly came in like a lion, so it has to go out like a lamb. Spring is in the air. I'm looking forward to leprechauns, Easter bunnies, and blooming daffodils soon.

This month, we cook and serve for the American Legion's Birthday dinner on Thursday, **March 17<sup>th</sup>**. Auxiliary members: please meet at the Legion Hall at 5:00 p.m. to help prepare the meal and get everything ready. **Please wear red, white and/or blue to this event!**

Gloria Freitag is once again assembling **Easter baskets** for our local homebound. She could use some help delivering the baskets so if you can help, please contact her. She will be bringing some of the baskets to the dinner on March 17<sup>th</sup>, so they can be picked up then.

Gloria also mentioned there are a handful of Auxiliary members who need to pay their 2016 dues. If you have any questions regarding whether you are paid up, please contact her.

At the March meeting, it was voted to have a designated food committee to purchase food for Auxiliary events. The committee has been assigned to buy food for the Birthday Dinner as well as Memorial Day.

We discussed Memorial Day at length, including the food and poppies. We will finalize this discussion next month in April. Please attend if you can so we can discuss this very important event. A tremendous amount of work goes into preparing the poppies, distributing poppies in Coon Valley door-to-door, and getting poppies to local businesses and everyone who wants them on Memorial Day. The more helpers we have, the easier these tasks become. Please contact me if you are interested in helping.

Our **next meeting is on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**. We have potluck at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Let's have a great turnout. Hope to see you then!

Julie Nelson, Auxiliary President

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

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual VA2K Walk and Roll at Tomah VA**

Join the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual VA2K Walk and Roll on Wednesday, May 18 at the Tomah VA. Together with community members, Veterans, and VA employees, you'll cover 1.2 miles starting at Building 400 at 1:00 pm. Donations of food and clothing to benefit homeless Veterans are also welcome. Theme will be Red White & Blue!!

### **Vets in need (HUD-VASH Homeless Vets)**

Homeless Veterans need items to outfit their new homes. Please consider donating new or gently used items. Furniture (couches/loveseats, recliners/chairs, end tables, lamps, vacuum cleaners), Bathroom (shower curtains, towels, bath mats), Kitchen (Pots & Pans, Utensils, Dishes, Cleaning Supplies, Brooms/Mops, Microwaves, Toasters), and Bedroom (Bed Frames, NEW Pillows, NEW Bedding). Contact Amanda Steinhoff at 608-372-3971, ext. 64201 or Chad Johnson at 608-372-3971, ext. 66809.

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

### **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.

### **Paid Up For Life (PUFL)**

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

For more information about the Paid Up For Life program: call (800) 433-3318.

### **The American Legion Department of Wisconsin Americanism and Government Scholarship**

The Americanism and Government scholarship program fosters interest in all levels of government, citizenship and provides students the opportunity to receive recognition and scholarships. Students are tested on their knowledge of U.S. Government, Wisconsin Government, County Government, the U.S. Constitution and flag etiquette. Students are also required to answer an essay question at the end of the test. This is not an open book test and students are not allowed to use outside resources.

Students are able to access the test in 3 easy steps! Test is accessible April 4, 2016—April 15, 2016

1. Click on the test link found on the [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org) website. Click on Programs, click on Americanism and Government Scholarship.
2. Complete registration and log in using the email and password you created.
3. Begin test!

Students have 1 hour to complete the test. All answers will be final. Attempting to restart, pause, close the browser, or hit the back button will terminate the test without an opportunity to continue. Students failing to complete the essay question will be ineligible for a scholarship.

Any Student in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in any public, private, parochial or home-schooled within the state of Wisconsin may participate.

### **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 wearing of the cap and usage of The American Legion emblem, facilities and political donations**

According to Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion, "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 National Charter, approved by Congress, also stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical\* which has been interpreted by the National Judge Advocate as "nonpartisan" in modern lingo. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is prohibited from contributing, helping or endorsing a candidate. However, a member, as a private citizen, and not representing the organization, can employ whatever legal and ethical means to advance his or her candidate.

The Legion cap is considered the official Legion uniform. It is not an individual Legion member's decision on the appropriate usage of the cap and emblem. If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with the emblem visible, should be removed so as not to imply endorsement by The American Legion. The problem is the assumption of endorsement by those who see the emblem or name worn at an improper location, such as a partisan rally.

When using post facilities to host candidates, post should remove emblem and Legion flag to avoid any impression of endorsements. Candidates for all parties must be presented equal opportunity at the same time to use the facilities on the same terms and conditions as other competing candidates.

If financial contributions are offered by candidates for political office, campaigns, political action committees or political parties, The American Legion should politely decline. Accepting these contributions may be perfectly legal, but The American Legion must avoid any perception of supporting any candidate or political party.

The American Legion values its independence and effectiveness on veterans' issues. This stance is best maintained by neutrality on individual candidates or political parties. The American Legion by legal definition is non-partisan and supports only issues which impact your Four Pillars.

\* This means "non-partisan" in today's society. The American Legion is allowed by Congress to lobby for veterans benefits and a strong United States of America. (NJA, October 25, 2012)



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

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**Palm Sunday Breakfast - Sunday, March 20th**

	<b>7:00-10:00am</b>	<b>10:00am-1:00pm</b>
<b>Cooking Scrambled Eggs</b>	Roger Mathison Charles Nelson	Steve Nelson Dennis Kammel
<b>Cooking Pancakes</b>	Chuck Lind Ron Miller	Carl Holte Michael Miller
<b>Cooking Sausages</b>	Bernie Roesler Dan Hofslie	Gary Hess Gordon Hellwig
<b>Window Servers</b>	Gary Grethel Wesley Guy	Ron Hoff Wally Cox
<b>Tables, Beverages, Coffee</b>	Mary Schmidt Sherman Olson Roger Starkey Tom Elson Richard Zube	Don Salter Ken Kammel Reuben Starch John Thurk Don Kammel
<b>Cashier</b>	Frank Mathison	James Hammes
<b>Bartender</b>	Rod Ofte (9am to noon)	

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**Cleanup ( 12:00 - 1:00)      The late shifts will clean up from noon to 1:00p.m.!!! Anyone else is also welcome!**