



COON VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 116



FEBRUARY 2017

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 8



Commanders Message:

Wow! February is here already! Where the heck did January go? We must have been real busy because it just flew by!

We have lots going on, once again, and everyone who contributes to all of our efforts are greatly appreciated. We presented colors at the ski hill for the ski jumps on the 3rd. We had Four Chaplains Sunday presentations on the 4th and 5th. We had a successful Super Sunday Pancake Breakfast also on the 5th.

We also have some events coming up. Notably, the Vernon County Banquet is on Saturday the 18th in Stoddard. Cost is \$12.00 per person. Happy hour is at 6:00pm and dinner is served at 7:00pm. Come and join us for a fine social evening. I need to get a head count to the Stoddard post, so please let me know as soon as possible if you are planning on going.

Also on the 18th we will be presenting the Colors at the Timber Coulee Thunder Snowmobile Races. If you are available to participate, that would be awesome. We usually present colors around 9:00am, so we will posse up around 8:00am at the Legion.

Membership renewals are coming to a critical state. We are at 168 out of 197. If you have not renewed your membership for 2017, please take care of this immediately. We will be making phone calls for those who are not renewed yet.

Once again, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as Commander of this fine post. As I look back on all of our accomplishments over the past 3-1/2 years, I am humbled by the amount of effort and care that everyone puts in to our awesome Post. Please continue that effort with the next Commander!

Gary M. Hess, Commander Post 116

DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 15th** Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm Meal, 8:00pm meeting
Lunch Committee: Ron and Michael Miller
- February 18th** Present Colors at Timber Coulee Thunder Snowmobile Races
- February 18th** Vernon County Banquet at Stoddard Post 315. Happy hour at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00pm
- February 26th** Coon Valley Area Baseball Association Annual Chicken Q
- March 6th** Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm
- March 6th** Auxiliary Meeting. Potluck at 6:00pm, Meeting at 6:30pm
- March 16th** Informal Post Meeting (if needed) THURSDAY at 7:00pm (LENT)
7:30pm Meal, 8:00pm Vernon County Meeting
Lunch Committee: Auxiliary
- April 3rd** Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm
- April 3rd** Auxiliary Meeting. Potluck at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:00pm
- April 3rd-April 14th** Americanism and Government Testing accessible online
- April 9th** Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast
- April 19th** Regular Post Meeting, 7:30pm meal, 8:00pm meeting
Lunch Committee: Charles Lind & Roger Starkey

February Newsletter

2016-2017

Last Bugle:

Larry Torgerson
John Sisbach, Jr
Leo Lusk*

* Not a Post 116 member



BUCKET DRAWING

December \$10

Allen Berger
(Not Present)

January \$20
Frank Mathison
(Present)

February Drawing
Will Be \$10

50/50

DRAWING

December \$55/\$55
Marvin Elsen

January-No 50/50

A Bag of Oranges
from the candy
pack was won by
John Thurk In
December



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:
Gary Hess
(608) 788-1768
for more information.

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Coon Valley, WI 54623
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Legion: (608) 452-3179

Membership Totals to Date

2017 Paid Membership - 168
2017 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 **\$40.00** and send to: Coon Valley American Legion Post 116
PO Box 314
Coon Valley, WI 54623



Message from S.A.L. Commander:

Hello Everyone,

Our next meeting will be on February 15th at the Legion at 8:00 pm. We will finalize the 2017 Brewers bus trip date. If you haven't sent back your membership dues, please do so ASAP.

Thank you!

Cal Manske,
SAL Commander



Message from Auxiliary President:

A warm hello to all of you.

At our February meeting, we discussed the upcoming Legion meeting on Thursday, March 16th when the Auxiliary serves our annual turkey dinner to the Legionnaires. We will prepare the gravy, dressing, and mashed potatoes in the Legion kitchen the day of the meeting. Thanks to all who are preparing turkeys, purchasing groceries, and helping prepare and serve the meal. We always need plenty of help that day in the kitchen. We will finalize the time to be there at our March meeting, but we think it will be approximately 5:00 p.m. Also, please remember to wear red, white, and/or blue to show our patriotism!

We once again will be providing a Coon Valley American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship to a Westby High School graduate. Our Unit has been offering an annual scholarship since 1987, and it is a great way to support our Coon Valley American Legion family youth.

March, April and May meeting date changes: Because of Lent and a conflict in May, our next three meetings move from Wednesday to Monday nights. Please mark your calendars for the next 3 meetings:

Monday, March 6th. Potluck at 6 pm. Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Monday, April 3rd. Potluck at 6 pm. Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Monday, May 1st. Potluck at 6 pm. Meeting at 6:30 pm.

We hope to see you there!

Julie Nelson
Auxiliary President

Vernon County Veterans Service Office (Jim Young and Tami Saleska) 608-637-5323

On February 2nd, Governor Scott Walker announced his appointment of Daniel Zimmerman to serve as the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). Mr. Zimmerman is a retired lieutenant colonel and military intelligence officer with 25 years of service in the United States Army. Governor Walker's appointment of Mr. Zimmerman is effective immediately.

"Dan's career is defined by public service," Governor Walker said. "Wisconsin's veterans deserve the best care and services possible, and with Dan's experience in the military and government, I know he will serve as a tireless advocate for Wisconsin's veterans."

Governor Walker is directing Mr. Zimmerman to immediately conduct a thorough assessment of the operations at Wisconsin's veterans homes and to schedule regular discussions with the County Veterans Service Officer Association and veterans service organizations.

"We serve some of our most vulnerable veterans at our veterans' homes, and I expect nothing short of the best when it comes to the care of these patriots," Governor Walker continued. "Improving communication between the WDVA and veterans service organizations and officers will also be a priority for Dan."

Mr. Zimmerman is a decorated combat veteran, having received the Bronze Star Medal twice and the Meritorious Service Medal five times. He holds a master's degree in Homeland Security from American Military University in Charles Town, West Virginia, and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

"'Serving those who have served' will be our guiding principle at WDVA. It will be engrained in every action we take," Mr. Zimmerman said. "I thank Governor Walker for trusting me to lead the department. I'm ready to get to work."

Since his retirement from the active Army in 2008, Mr. Zimmerman has worked as a training consultant for U.S. National Guard Bureau and as an exercise officer and threat planner at Wisconsin Emergency Management, Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs. He is also the vice president of the Ripon Area School District Board of Education, chairman of Big Hills Lake Management District, and serves as president of two non-profit charitable organizations. He resides in Ripon with his wife and four children.

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 3' x 5' flags are \$25.00.

E-Mail Receipt of the Coon Valley American Legion Newsletter

As always, we are trying to find ways to be economic with our expenses and one way that all of us can contribute to that is to have the newsletter e-mailed to you instead of receiving it via US Mail. This saves us costs in publishing as well as in postage costs. If you would like to have your newsletter delivered to you via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Commander Hess at garyhess@centurytel.net and you will be added to the e-mail roster and taken off of the mailing roster. Thank you!

Long Range Planning Committee

Many of you may know but some of you might not know that we have established a Long Range Planning Committee. This committee comprises of three Legionnaires, one Auxiliary and one SAL member. The goal is to help provide a comprehensive vision for the future of Post 116 as an organization and for the building and grounds. All positions have been filled on this committee and we look forward to receiving some outstanding ideas for the long-range plan.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal

Korean War Veterans who served in the Korean War may be eligible for the Korean Ambassador For Peace Medal. This commemorative medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean Government to United States service men and women who served in the Korean War.

The Ambassador For Peace Medal began to be presented to veterans as a special memento for those who returned to South Korea through the 'Revisit Program'. The honor has since expanded to veterans who cannot travel the long journey to Korea.

Criteria:

1. To be eligible, the veteran must have served during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. It is also available to veterans who have participated in UN peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955.
2. The Commemorative medals may be awarded posthumously, however, please understand that the highest priority is given to veterans who are currently surviving in the US. The next of kin, such as the spouse or decedents may apply for the medal on behalf of the deceased veteran.
3. In order to apply for this commemorative medal, veterans or their family members have to complete an application form. Commander Hess has a copy of the application form and can provide you with one. Veterans also need to provide a copy of their DD214 or their discharge papers from active duty along with their application for verification purposes.
4. Please send your completed application form to the Defense Attaché Office, Embassy of the Republic of Korea or to one of the Republic of Korea Consulates. If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact the Defense Attaché Office, Embassy of the Republic of Korea or to one of the Republic of Korea Consulates located in the United States.