

THE FIRING LINE

"For God and Country"

Van Eimeren-Kolonka Post 27

American Legion

Post Meeting & Social - 2nd Monday of the Month

Auxiliary Meeting - 2nd Tuesday of the Month

92 Years Old and "Still Serving America"

October - November 2011 Edition

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Reserve your place for the Annual
Post Membership Dinner
October 15!

POST & AUXILIARY EVENTS CALENDAR

OCTOBER

4 - Post 27 Board Meeting 7:00PM

6 - Farmers Market Fundraiser
~ 3-7PM South Milwaukee

10 - Post 27 Membership Meeting 7:00PM

11 - Auxiliary Membership Meeting 7:00PM

15 - Post 27 Membership Dinner
5PM Cocktails/6PM Dinner

16 - Veterans Council Meeting 9:30AM

NOVEMBER

1 - Articles due for Firing Line

5 - Veteran's Day Parade Downtown Milwaukee
meet at post by 9:00AM

8 - Post 27 Board Meeting 7:00PM

8 - Auxiliary Membership Meeting 7:00PM

11 - Veteran's Day Parade South Milwaukee
meet at post by 10:15AM

11 - Soup & Sandwich FREE for Veterans at Post
from 4:30-6:30PM

14 - Post 27 Membership Meeting 7:00PM

16 - 4th District Meeting (place to be determined)

27 - South Milwaukee Christmas Parade meet at
post by 11:15AM

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Rick Wilke
(414) 768-8584

In this issue I would like to talk about one on the four pillars that make up the American Legion.

The American Legion was founded on four pillars which are Veterans Affairs, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

The one I would like to tell you about is Veterans Affairs.

For more than 92 years the American Legion has acted as the nation's leading advocate for proper health care for the veteran. In 1930, the American Legion had a hand in creating the Veterans Administration, and in 1989 was a strong supporter to its elevation status when it became the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The American Legion continues to aggressively lobby for adequate funding for health care in this time of cutting by our government.

Today the number of discharged veterans from the global war on terrorism has surpassed 500,000, while, the American Legion is the only organization that works for 24 million veterans.

VA claims are estimated at one million. Each claim is a separate and unique situation involving a human life, and deserves careful attention.

Other items that fall under Veterans Affairs:

Access to VA Health Care, Network of Services Officers, VA Vet Centers, Health Care Funding Formula, Veterans With Special Needs, Volunteering, Final Respects, Heroes to Hometowns, Careers for Veterans, Homeless, and GI Bill Benefits.

In the past few months on the 2nd Thursday of every month a group of post/auxiliary members are helping out with a fundraiser at the South Milwaukee Farmers Market. We are selling brats and soda at a booth that we set up. The event goes

from 3-7pm. I want to thank the following people that make this event happen: Mary & Paul Eckert, Bill Moore, Charlie Sanchez, Brenda Tryba, Cheryl Wilke, Jim Borland, and myself. This will only go until the 2nd Thursday in Oct. Again thanks for all that make this happen.

I also held a casino night in August, which the post did make a little money for the Troop and Family Support Program. I was a little disappointed that not many of our members attended this event. I believe in supporting the programs that the post has to offer, and getting to know other members of the post/auxiliary and at the same time to raise some funds for the post or its programs. I want to thank Tom & Barb Ludka, Jim Guttman, Ed Heffner, Lynn Gunderson, John Eckert and Joy Gerard for donating raffle prizes, and Brenda Tryba, Jim Guttman, Delores Parker, Paul & Mary Eckert, Chris & Dick Blaha, Susanne Ruff, Dennis Irwin, Bill Moore, June Weiss, Stu Swanson, Marilyn Troyer, Cheryl Wilke, and Sam Dial for helping out this night.

Thank You

Rick

Membership - 1st Vice
Ed Kuzma (414) 764-0399
ejkuzma@wi.rr.com

Our membership goal for 2012 is 259, we currently are at 148 or 57.1% of our goal.

Please encourage members who need to renew or if you know of someone qualified to join the Legion, bring them in.

Thank you
1st Vice Commander Ed Kuzma

Honor Guard

Bill Moore

(414) 481-5723



Hello to all,

Our honor guard provided funeral honors for three more funerals since the last Firing Line, bringing our total to 20 this year. Our condolences go out to the families, friends and loved ones of Melvin J. Zemplinski, Vernal R. Hoffman, Robert F. Gifford and Donald E. Dvorak.

We also participated in the Oak Creek Assembly of God church's Celebrate Freedom program, Flag Day ceremonies at City Hall, and South Milwaukee's Heritage Days festivities. Several of our honor guard members also participated in veterans 'talks' at MATC south campus, and assisted in running our 'Brat/ Hotdog' stand fundraiser at the Farmer's Market in South Milwaukee.

Once again, thanks to all the honor guard members of all the SMVC organizations for working together to provide very professional, courteous funeral honors for the survivors of our departed comrades.

Bill Moore

Upcoming Changes

Post 27 will begin publishing the post newsletter on a quarterly basis, to help with the post expense reduction. More information for events and other American Legion benefits will be available at post monthly meetings.

Veterans and Military Affairs

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

For more information please visit www.wisvets.com/

CONTINUE serving your community by joining us!

South Milwaukee Veteran Websites:

AMERICAN LEGION Post 27

www.smlegion.org

Meetings 2nd Monday of the month.

Rick Wilke 414.768.8584

VETERANS OFFOREIGN WARS Post 3742

Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Bill Stewart 414.762.1856

Chaplain's Chat

Dave Hansen

(414) 764-1326

During this reporting period, condolences were offered to the families of lakeside suburb deceased veterans Edward Hanrihar, Melvin J. Zemplinski, Vernal R. Hoffman, Robert F. Gifford and Donald E. Dvorak. Get-well wishes were extended to our fellow Legionnaires Jim Guttman, Brenda Tryba, Ron Datthyn and Suzanne Ruf. Continue to pray for our friends who are still struggling with ill health: Dick Blaha and John Sobon. Why don't you take a moment to make a phone call, write a note or greeting card, or drop in and pay a visit to Bill Stolpa, Ed Heffner, Joe Janka, or Harry Janikowski? Some of our senior members feel lonely and forgotten or sometimes, they simply feel run down.

One extraordinary event that several of us participated in recently was in response to an invitation from MATC-South Campus to address an Educators Seminar regarding the American Legion and our Youth programs and also the opportunity to teach military history. Rick Wilke, Bill Moore and I shared our experiences with a core group of dynamic professionals, who represented elementary education in Southeast Wisconsin.

Why We Serve

"If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35

Once having been soldiers, we are forever changed and while we may no longer be in uniform, we remain "on active duty" as God lays the burden on our hearts, for we forever after serve.

Lord of hosts, you have laid to us a charge, an obligation, a moral preemptive that we cannot be apathetic, lazy or selfish. We owe you our lives...literally! ... for now and for eternity. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

For God and Country

UNIT 27 AUXILIARY

PRESIDENT

Brenda Tryba

(414) 238-2484

blmttogo@yahoo.com

Hi Everyone! Wow! Summer is done already. Where did it go! August 5th was the Post's first great "Casino Night". There was a silent auction and lots of door prizes. Community Night was August 10th. All who joined us had a great time!

Don't forget, our Membership Dinner is October 15th this year. As always, the dinner is Free to all Post, Sons, and Auxiliary Members who have their 2012 Membership dues paid. You will be able to pay your dues at the door, but please call June (262-884-6077) with your reservation so we know how many to plan the dinner for. Dinner will be \$12 for all Guests and Members who did not pay their membership 2012 dues. Children ages 6 – 11 will be \$6.00, 5 and under will be free. Please RSVP as soon as possible so we can plan the meal.

Our new Department Officers for 2011 – 2012 are:

President—Joan Chwala

Sr. Vice— Diana Sirovina

1st Vice— Joyce Endres

2nd Vice— Teresa Isensee

Historian— Laura Calteux

Chaplain—Laurel DuBois

"Don't forget to RSVP your dinner reservation!"

Current Department of Wisconsin Auxiliary information is available on-line at:

www.amlegionauxwi.org

National American Legion Auxiliary: www.legion-aux.org

Unit 27 information is on the Post 27 website: www.smlegion.org

Upcoming Events

Oct 11 – Auxiliary Membership Meeting at 7 pm

Nov 8 – Auxiliary Membership Meeting at 7 pm

What do you really know about the principles behind the founding of our country and the US Constitution? Join us on November 12 at Post 27 when we present "The Making of America." In conjunction with the National Center for Constitutional Studies we will host a nonpartisan approach to the understanding of the values that unite us as citizens of this great country and the principles behind the US Constitution. PLEASE REGISTER BY OCTOBER 27, 2011. Invite all your friends and family to join us in this great opportunity!

1st Vice/Membership Chair

June Weiss

(262) 884-6077

Ladies, it is that time of the year again, time to renew your auxiliary dues for 2012. Please send them to June Weiss or bring it to the Post. We need all of your memberships to continue supporting the local, state and national VA programs.

Your paid up dues is also your free ticket to our membership dinner October 15, 2011 at 5:00PM. Please remember to make your reservations for the membership dinner by Sunday, October 3, 2011.



CONTINUE serving your community by joining us!
South Milwaukee Veteran Websites:

AMVETS Post 4

Meetings 1st Wednesday of the month.
Mike Mahoney 414.762.5705

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 7

Meetings 3rd Wednesday of the month.
Bill Schober 414.764.6967

Special Projects

Audit Committee by Jim Borland

Due to the urging of our Finance Officer, Dennis Irwin, four post members have volunteered to form an audit committee for our post. We are: Jim Borland, Mary Eckert, Ron McClelland and Brenda Tryba. Dennis Irwin is available for consultation but by SOP provided by National HQ, he cannot be an active participant. So far we have met three times. The scope of our task is spelled out in the National guidelines. To put members at ease, we aren't motivated by any improprieties or irregularities. However, our financial balance sheet upon first analysis is not positive. Commander Rick has recognized this and has reacted by implementing various fundraising activities, including a Farmer's Market brat booth, Casino Nite, and other ideas. Like many government and business organizations, our Post must increase revenues (more membership, fund raisers, etc.), reduce expenses or both.

What can each member do?

First: Participate in fundraisers.

Second: Volunteer for any of our public events, i.e., parades, funerals, poppy distribution.

Third: Solicit memorials from families who lost a loved one and ask "What can we do to extend his/her legacy?"

Fourth: Buy a brick.

Fifth: Publicize the great benefits of renting our hall for your own events, at a significant discount, or to others.

On the other side of the ledger, we are examining all expenses. We realize the task may be larger than the four of us can handle. So, we would like to see at least three members volunteer to form a bar committee. These members could conduct inventory, compare and recommend price adjustments, plan improvements, advertise, and anything you can brainstorm. Finally, we need to identify the skills and talents we know reside among our members who can be used as advisors and workers for current and future projects. Don't wait for our monthly membership meeting, contact any board member soon! An update of our progress will appear after we discuss our current findings with the board and obtain their guidance. As the Anode said to the Cathode, "B positive!"

A day in August selling brats at the South Milwaukee Farmers Market



Von Eimeren-Kolonka American Legion

Annual Post, Sons & Auxiliary **Membership**

Dinner

Saturday, October 15, 2011

5:00pm Cocktails / 6:00pm (sharp) Dinner

Please register as soon as possible!

Name of Member(s) _____

Dinner is free with **2012 Paid up dues** for Post, Sons, and Auxiliary members. Dues may be paid at the door.

Name of Guest(s) _____

A charge of \$12.00 per Guest will be collected to defray costs.

Total Included: _____

The Membership Dinner is sponsored by the Post and Auxiliary. Please join us for an evening of food and fun!

Please return this form to: June Weiss 1046 Stratford Court Racine, WI 53406
or you may RSVP ASAP to June at: (262) 884-6077 or email Brenda at:
blmttogo@yahoo.com before **Sunday, October 3, 2011.**

American Legion Post 27 advanced the colors as part of a 9/11 Service of Prayer Remembrance at the South Milwaukee United Methodist Church on September 11, 2011



Subject: LENNOX FURNACE PROMOTION

Importance: High

Mr Adjutant and Madam Secretary

A local heating contractor called me yesterday with this Lennox program. He would like to make sure that it is disseminated to the veteran community as much as possible. Unfortunately, the deadline is September 15th, so we don't have much time to act. If you know of any one in need of a furnace, please have them go to this website and fill out an application. There is no cost whatsoever involved for people in need.

<http://www.heatupwisconsin.com/>

Third District Commander
Ken Rynes

Please get this information out to your members ASAP in case they are interested.

Thanks,
Joan Chwala, Dept. President

Upcoming Events

No, it is not too early to think about it. Yes, he is returning for a repeat performance to the post. Whether you are naughty or nice, he is coming!!!!

The return of
"Pancake Breakfast with SANTA"
here at the Post! Sunday,
December 11, 2011

Children, grandchildren, and the child in all of us -
are all welcome! Hold the date. more to come!

A state of the art "Spinal Cord Injury Center" has just opened up at the Zablocki VA Hospital, stop by and take a look on your next visit!

HONORING ALL VETERANS

Soup & Sandwich Supper
Friday, November 11, 2011
4:30 - 6:30PM or (while supplies last)

VETERANS EAT FREE: Guests are asked for a financial donation. Funds raised will be used as part of the "Thank You Baskets" and/or holiday gifts for female veterans.

Menu

Soup Choices

Vegetable
Chicken Noodle
Bean

Sandwich Choices

Tuna Salad
Egg Salad
Ham

We ask that you choose a minimum of 2 bowls of soup and a sandwich.

We would appreciate that you would make a reservation and schedule your dinner time. Call Randy at 414-762-4813. Please leave a name, phone number, and number of persons attending.

Van Eimeren-Kolonka Post 27
American Legion
920 Monroe Ave
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

N.P.O.
U.S. Postage
PAID Permit
No. 4
South Milwaukee, WI

DATED MATERIAL

<http://www.sml legion.org>

Visit us online @



Post/Bar Phone 764-1827

920 Monroe Ave - South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Memorial Building

THE FIRING LINE