

# Post Notes

July, 2015



Commander.....	Mike Larson	Service Officer.....	Russ Jenkins
First Vice.....	Bob O'Donnell	Chaplain.....	Dale Sankey
Second Vice.....	Bill Blie	Historian.....	Rob Blanchar
Adjutant.....	Ron Hillson	Sgt. at Arms.....	Darrell Krenz
Finance.....	Jodie Armstrong		Mike Valdovinos, Mike Verdico
Web Site.....	www.alp534.org	Post Phone Number.....	(608) 838-3249

## Commander's Corner



Well, it looks like I will be your Commander for one more year. Even though I was not planning on running, I was asked by several people to serve one more term and I have agreed to do so. I appreciate the support and confidence you

have with me and I am happy to serve. There will be only two changes on the board, that being 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice and Chaplain. Kathy Durant (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice) and Chuck Wedekind (Chaplain) both declined their office due to health issues within their families. I appreciate all the work they did in the past years to help this unit run so smoothly. Bill Blie was elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice and I appointed Dale Sankey Chaplain for the next year. Installation of officers will be June 26 at 7:00 p.m. (Don't forget, there is no meeting in July.)

"Take a Vet Fishing" was once again a huge success. Thanks to Rob Blanchar and other members who helped with this important event. Rob is on the board of directors for Take a Vet Fishing and works tirelessly for this cause.

It is that time of year again for our big raffle to be held on August 8. Tickets are available at the bar or from several members. Tickets are \$50.00 each and steak or chicken dinner and drinks are

included. This is your chance to win the \$3000.00 first prize or an additional \$1800.00 in cash prizes. We will also have about 40 door prizes. We only sell 200 tickets and you do not have to be present to win.

Please don't forget that the flags go up at 6:00 a.m. and come down at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. We have had bad luck with weather for the flags this year and hopefully we can get them up this time.

Until next month,  
Commander Mike

## From the Chaplain



I want to thank all of you who have helped me over the last two years. This position of Chaplain is one that helps someone to keep tabs on what is going on with the Legion and

helping those in need.

I will be around to help the new Chaplain and see everyone at the Legion. It has been a great two years and once again, I thank all those who helped me.

God bless. Chaplain Chuck

## Membership



Currently, we have achieved 91% of our membership goal established by HQ. June 30, 2015 concludes the 2015 membership year.

Take this opportunity and update your LegionCare No Cost Accidental Death benefit. This is a one-of-a-kind membership benefit

offered exclusively to Legionnaires. You can complete and mail the form on the last page of this newsletter, go on the internet per the instructions or pick up a form at Post 534.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact me at your convenience at (608) 838-3551 or email:

[robertodonnell@charter.net](mailto:robertodonnell@charter.net)

Bob O'Donnell  
Membership Chair

## Auxiliary News



Nominations and voting took place at the June meeting. The new officers are as follows: President: Polly Stout and Jodie Armstrong, a shared position. This is new.

Vice President: Sue Whipperfurth  
Treasurer: Bonnie Dobson-Lamp

Chaplin: Ellyn Thompson  
Sargent at Arms: Reenie Mc. and Ellyn T.  
Installation of officers will be June 26th @ 7pm. The new officers will take over July 1st.

Please feel free to bring a snack for the installation of officers for all the Legion family. Marge Marshman will be installing the Auxiliary

officers. No meeting is held in the month of July.

Take Care and God Bless  
President, Polly Stout



## Sick Call – Prayer List

Gary Salverson, John Guler, Jim Leyda, Dennis Dancker, Roger Segebrecht, Dale Everett and Gary Venden

**Please notify the following Legion members for sympathy or get well cards:**

**Legion Chaplain – Chuck Wedekind (838-7452)**

**Auxiliary Chaplain – Kathy Koenig (514-9400)**

**Sunshine Person – Jodie Armstrong (838-3745)**

**S.A.L. Chaplain – Sonny Stout (838-9420)**

## S.A.L. Corner



Hello SAL Members,  
Thanks to all of you that made it possible to obtain our 100% membership and a successful year of fundraising! I'd also like to thank all SAL members for the great support over the last 4 consecutive years I've served as your

Commander. I will support Rick Schneider as our new Commander, along with the other new officers in the year ahead. The new officers are:

Rick Schneider – Commander

Don Egner – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice

Jason Schneider – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice

Doug Jobe – Adjutant

Dick Schwedsky – Finance

Sonny Stout – Chaplin

Howard Volenberg and Richie Eith – Sgt. At Arms

Thanks, again!

SAL Commander, Don (Hook) Egner

## *A Flight of Honor . . . .*

On May 16, 2015, Gordon Nelson, along with his escort, Howard Volenberg, boarded the Badger Honor Flight from Madison to Washington, D.C. for a day filled with visits to the nation's war memorials. A native of Madison and current resident of Dunn Township, Gordy spent 20 years in three military branches – the Navy, Army and Air Force – and served during two wars – Korea and Vietnam. Gordy is also past Commander of American Legion Post 534. The following is his story of the events as they took place.

The morning of May 16 began for me in the dark as Howard, my escort, and I made our way to the Dane County Regional Airport. When we arrived, we were greeted by a large number of people, many of which were volunteers. The veterans were given red jackets and caps to match our previously received red shirts along with a photo I.D. to be worn throughout the journey. Our guardians, who had gone through extensive training on March 28<sup>th</sup>, received like attire, only in blue. A Send-Off Ceremony was held at the airport prior to boarding. Food and beverages were served both at the airport and during the flight. 166 Veterans, escorts and volunteers boarded our chartered plane and at 7 a.m. CST, we departed. We were divided into four groups (red, blue, orange and brown) for the four buses we would be boarding. My bus was the "brown bus". The flight took an hour and a half. As we approached Reagan National Airport, we were able to view the Potomac River and the Pentagon. At 10:02 a.m. EST, we landed and were greeted by over 1,000 people welcoming us. It was unbelievable. From there, we boarded our assigned buses. We had a police escort wherever we went, so traffic was never an issue.

First stop: Arlington National Cemetery where we picked up our guides. Each bus had a military officer as their guide. The guide on my bus was a Navy Lt. Cmdr. At 12 noon, we viewed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. For those of you fortunate enough to have visited Arlington National Cemetery, you know what I mean when I speak of its peace and beauty as a final resting place for those who have served our nation.

At 12:30 p.m., we boarded the bus for the Marine Corps Memorial where we were served lunch and a group photo was taken. That's me in the last row in front of the emblem on the left.





At 2 p.m., we boarded the buses for the WW II Memorial. The WW II Memorial is a large fountain surrounded by 50 columns representing each of the 50 states. Music from the 40's was playing and dancers danced with us – those who “could”, I might add.

That's Howard and yours truly by the Wisconsin column. I met former Senator, Bob Doyle there and had my picture taken with him.



At 3:45 p.m., we, once again, boarded the buses for the drive to the Korean War and Vietnam Veterans Memorials. The Korean War Memorial consists of poncho laden soldiers set in a field of imported Korean grass; and I cannot begin to describe the emotion one feels when viewing “The Wall”. Both of these memorials are below the Lincoln Memorial which was the last stop on our tour.

At 6 p.m., we boarded the buses for our drive back to Reagan National Airport and “Home Sweet Home”. A send-off of 40's music and, once again, dancing took place at the airport prior to boarding. While on board the return flight, we had “mail call” and each of us was given a large envelope containing letters from family members, the governor, members of congress, school children and community members expressing their pride and gratitude for our service. Our plane was scheduled to depart at 8 p.m. EST but due to a wheel chair mix-up, we were delayed and late getting into Madison. I guess it didn't matter because there were over 3,000 people at the airport to welcome us back. Again, it was unbelievable and totally restored my faith in humanity. When I pulled into my driveway that night, there stood a soldier in full uniform saluting me. He is my neighbor and it sure capped my perfect, memorable day.

I cannot express how organized and well planned this entire event was and my sincerest thanks to ALL who made it possible. I have done a lot of things in my life, but this was truly one of the most cherished highlights of all. If you ever have the chance to be a part of the Badger Honor Flight – TAKE IT!!!

Yours truly,

Gordy Nelson

P.S. If you know of any WWII or Korean War Veteran that should be honored on this flight, I have forms; or you can go to [www.badgerhonorflight.org/](http://www.badgerhonorflight.org/)

Please have your August newsletter articles to me by Wednesday, July 22.  
Thanks, Sharon Scallon, editor

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust is pleased to announce that online enrollment is now available for the LegionCare No Cost Accidental Death benefit. This is a one-of-a-kind benefit offered exclusively to Legionnaires.

LegionCare provides all Legionnaires with:

- \$5,000 in Accidental Death Coverage for covered accidents that occur if you are traveling on official Legion business.
- \$1,000 for all other covered accidents.
- 24/7 protection that covers Legionnaires at home, at work and while they are travelling away from home available for all Legionnaires in your Department.

To learn more or to sign up, please visit:

<http://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare>.

**IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE RESPOND IN THE NEXT TEN DAYS**  
**NOTIFICATION FOR ALL LEGIONNAIRES**



Endorsed by  
Your American  
Legion Department

You must complete, sign, and mail this form to receive LegionCare;  
up to \$5,000.00 NO COST TO YOU Accidental Death Benefit.  
Coverage will be effective through August 31, 2016.

**ENROLLMENT FORM FOR LEGIONNAIRE:**

Official Membership #:

Please indicate your DATE OF BIRTH (Coverage cannot begin without your date of birth)

Name:

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
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Address:

City:

State:  ZIP:

Yes, I want LegionCare; \$5,000.00 NO COST TO ME Accidental Death Insurance for covered accidents that occur while traveling on official American Legion business, or \$1,000.00 benefit protection for all other covered accidents, underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company. I understand I have no obligation to pay for this benefit. My coverage will become effective when my Enrollment Form is received by the Administrator during my lifetime and terminates on August 31, 2016.

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date  \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:

A36523 LT17010  
LT-17919\_APP

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 P.O. Box 196  
 McFarland, WI 53558

**PRSR STD**  
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**MADISON, WI**

Bar Manager.....Sonny Stout  
 Rental Officer.....Jim Wickert  
 Newsletter.....Sharon Scallon  
 Building/Grounds.....Denny Haugen

# JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Flags up 6 am Flags Down 5 pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Shelter Rental	13	14	15 Exec Bd Mtg 7 pm	16	17	18 McF Softball Asst. 10-noon
19	20	21	22 Newsletter Articles Due	23	24	25 Shelter Rental
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm	4 S.A.L. Mtg 6:30 pm	5	6	7 Legion Mtg 7 pm	8 Legion Raffle & Dinner 5 pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Exec Bd Mtg 7 pm Newsletter Articles Due	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					