

Post Notes

June, 2015



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

Commander's Corner



Well, we made it to May but it is still only 45 degrees as I write this.

Thank you to everyone who showed up for clean-up on May 2. A special thanks to John Feldner and the American Legion Baseball team of about 20. Everything was

done by 11:00 a.m. and they were gone to get ready for prom. They were a great help.

Don't forget the state convention will be July 15 to 19 in Appleton. If anyone is interested in going, contact one of the officers.

Past Commander Gordy Nelson just returned from the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. on the 15th. Howard Volenberg was his escort and both reported how impressed they were how everything was run. This was a once in a lifetime event for both.

Please don't forget "Take A Vet Fishing" on June 14. Last year's event was a GREAT success and we expect this year's will be an even bigger success. Rob Blanchar and his team have done a great job and we have to show our support for this important event.

Another reminder that elections will be held at

the June 5 meeting. Nominations can still be accepted that night prior to the election. Installation of officers will be June 26 and there will not be a meeting in July.

Until next month, stay well.

Commander Mike

From the Chaplain



Although Memorial Day has come and gone, I feel it is good to reflect on its origin. Therefore I am repeating the article submitted by Mike Valdovinos back in May of 2012.

The History of Memorial Day

It was 1866 and the United States was recovering from the long and bloody Civil War between the North and the South. Surviving soldiers came home, some with missing limbs and all with stories to tell. Henry Welles, a drugstore owner in Waterloo, New York heard the stories and had an idea. He suggested that all the shops in town close for one day to honor the soldiers who were killed in the Civil War and were buried in the Waterloo cemetery. On the morning of May 5, the townspeople placed flowers, wreaths and crosses

on the graves of the Northern soldiers in the cemetery. At about the same time, Retired Major General Jonathan A. Logan planned another ceremony, this time for the soldiers who survived the war. He led the veterans through town to the cemetery to decorate their comrades' graves with flags. It was not a happy celebration, but a memorial. The townspeople called it Decoration Day.

In Retired Major General Logan's proclamation of Memorial Day, he declared: "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance, no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

The two ceremonies were joined in 1868 and northern states commemorated the day on May 30. The southern states commemorated their war dead on different days. Children read poems and sang civil war songs and veterans came to school wearing their medals and uniforms to tell students about the Civil War. Then the veterans marched through their home towns followed by the townspeople to the cemetery. They decorated graves and took photographs of soldiers next to American flags. Rifles were shot in the air as a salute to the northern soldiers who had given their lives to keep the United States together.

In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day and soldiers who had died in previous wars were honored as well. In the northern United States, it was designated a public holiday. In 1971, President Richard Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday on the last Monday in May.

Cities all around the United States hold their own ceremonies on the last Monday in May to pay respect to the men and women who have died in wars or in the service of their country.

Memorial Day is not limited to honor only
June, 2015

those Americans from the armed forces. It is also a day for personal remembrance. Families and individuals honor the memories of their loved ones who have died. Church services, visits to the cemetery, flowers on graves or even silent tribute mark the day with dignity and solemnity. It is a day of reflection. However, to many Americans, the day also signals the beginning of summer with a three-day weekend to spend at the beach, in the mountains or at home relaxing.

Chaplain Chuck

Membership



Currently 90% of Post 534 members have paid their 2015 membership dues. This concludes the 2015 year and the 2016 membership year commences July 1st.

If you have any questions regarding membership payments, please contact me at

your convenience at (608) 838-3551 or email:

robertodonnell@charter.net

Bob O'Donnell
Membership Chair

Auxiliary News



Sympathy goes out to the family of my husband, Sonny (S.A.L. member) for the loss of his sister and to the family of Julie and Steve Dunlavy (Legionnaire member) for the loss of Julie's mother.

Clean-up, as I have been told, went well. I did not help as it

was the day of Sonny's sister's funeral.

June, 2015

2015 is the year for new officers. Are you interested in being an officer? If so, there is a description of all officer positions on the Auxiliary bulletin board. If interested in becoming an officer, please read the description and should you have any questions, please ask or call Polly @ 608-513-5378. Nominations have been submitted and final nominations may be accepted at the June meeting, followed by the voting. If you would like to nominate someone, please ask the person if they would like to hold a certain office. The officers elected will be sworn in on Friday, June 26th at 7 p.m. along with the Legionnaires and the S.A.L.

I would like to thank the Legion Family for the support that I have had during my term as President. It has been an interesting two years. Altogether, I have served a total of eight years as President. I have fulfilled one of my dreams of what I would like to do when I retired. Therefore, I will not be around for a lot of volunteering as I have in the past years.

Have a wonderful **summer** . . . when it gets here.

Thank you, Thank you
Take Care and God Bless
President Polly Stout



Sick Call – Prayer List

Gary Salverson, John Guler, Jim Leyda, Sue Wipperfurth's sister Linda, Dennis Dancker, Roger Segebrecht, Dale Everett, Gary Venden, Carol Welch, Steve Killerlain and Bev Dexter

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,
At last month's meeting, we held nominations for all of our officer positions. There will be another opportunity to nominate someone at the start of our June meeting. After that, we will vote for our new officers. Please be

present at the June 3rd meeting at 6:30 for the final voting. The installation of officers will be June 26th at 7 p.m.

It is time for my term as your Commander to come to an end. I've enjoyed working with you on our various projects over the past two terms. Thank you for your help. Let's continue to work together with our new Commander as he starts his term. I'd also like to thank the Legion Family for their support of our functions.

Memorial Day has come and gone. I hope everyone enjoyed their long weekend. It's time to get the garden in! I'm planting palm trees and cactus this year – maybe the weather will change!

Thanks, again, for all your support!
SAL Commander, Don (Hook) Egner

Editor's Note: Please have your July newsletter articles to me by Wednesday, June 17.

Thanks, Sharon Scallon, editor

Quotes to live by

Don't let the fear of striking out hold you back.

-Babe Ruth

Find something you're passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it.

-Julia Child

They say marriages are made in Heaven. But so are thunder and lightning.

-Clint Eastwood



American Legion Post 534
 P.O. Box 196
 McFarland, WI 53558

**PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 P A I D
 PERMIT # 2944
 MADISON, WI**

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

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Lion's Dinner 5:30 pm (Hall) Auxiliary Mtg & Election 7 pm (Lounge)	2 S.A.L. Mtg & Election 6:30 pm		4 Legion Mtg & Election 7 pm	6 Rental
7	8	9	10	11	12 Take A Vet Fishing	13 Take A Vet Fishing
14 Take A Vet Fishing	15	16	17 Exec Bd Mtg 7 pm Newsletter Articles Due	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Joint Installation of Officers 7 pm	27
28	29	30				

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 Aaar. 10:00am
19	20	21	22 Newsletter Articles Due	23	24	25 Shelter Rental
26	27	28	29	30	31	