

Post Notes

March, 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



Other than a few days of really cold weather this week, it looks like a downhill slide for spring.

In the last newsletter, I neglected to recognize Mark Hanson and the S.A.L. for their participation in the Legion Family

Christmas party and for that I apologize.

We will be having the American Legion Birthday party on March 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Legion will supply the meat and if anyone would care to bring a dish to pass, that would be great.

The Ray Popp Memorial Service will be here on March 14 from noon to 5:00 p.m. with a pass and review at 12:45 p.m., a short service and Military Rites by our post to follow.

We will be hosting the Hunters Safety Training again this year which we have done for several years. Hunters Safety is very important for both the adults and youth and several of the instructors are members of our post.

I think everyone is fairly healthy this month which is good considering the last couple of months.

Until next month, Commander Mike

From the Chaplain



I am sorry to say that the young people we are sending overseas are finding the areas where they are going to be unsafe. We have about 20,000 people overseas now and last year

we lost 150 to the dangers of war. I would like to see all of the members of the American Legion supporting the good intentions of these, our nation's caregivers, as they encounter the chances of danger.

"Father, we come to you, humble children seeking guidance as we endeavor to find ways to fulfill our promise to serve You and our country. Bless all that we do and say. Make us truly instruments of Your will as we serve You through this great organization. Help us to guard well our heritage and grant that we protect our nation by our service. In Your name, we pray." Amen.

Love,
Chaplain Chuck

Membership



To grow at the local level, Post 534 needs to rely on our members to be active recruiters. For the individual Legionnaire, membership recruiting can lead to a big reward! Department will award you the traditional "I Got 1" pin.

Recruiters can show their pride by earning the new "I Got 1" pins which are larger and more visible than ever before. Anyone who recruits a new member qualifies! So, carry the membership application form in your wallet and sign up a new member. Please congratulate the following Post 534 recruiters for their stellar efforts:

5 New Recruits earns Commander Mike Larson the **Captain Steve Ritchie Membership Award - Top pilot ace in Vietnam**

2 New Recruits earns Finance Officer Jodie Armstrong the "I Got 1" pin.

1 New Recruit earns Second Vice Kathy Durant the "I Got 1" pin.

1 New Recruit earns Ray Van Kylen the "I Got 1" pin.

Membership

Currently 88% of Post 534 members have paid their 2015 membership dues. For those who have not paid, a member of our Membership Committee will contact you regarding nonpayment of 2015 dues. 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

Editor's Note: Please have your April newsletter articles to me by Wednesday, March 18.

Thanks, Sharon Scallon, editor

Auxiliary News



Please welcome Kelly Vinge, our newest member. Her grandfather served in the army during WWII.

The Auxiliary will be doing diaper bags for the ladies veterans. The suggested items for the bags are new born disposable diapers, sleepers, bathing items,

bibs and outfits of clothing. If interested in a donation to help fill the bags, please contact Polly @ 838-9420.

The blankets, sponsored by the Auxiliary and made by Sue Hargraves, were delivered to the VA Hospital. Sue requested that Ray and Kathy Popp receive one being that both are members of Post 534. Ron Hillson delivered crocheted afghans to the VA Hospital, sponsored by the Auxiliary and made by Magritte Johnson who has crocheted afghans for the VA Hospital for years.

I heard, due to such cold weather, the bingo count was down, but all had fun who attended.

Membership Reminder, We have a few unpaid members for the year of 2015. Take note: Any member not processed at Department Headquarters as of January 31st shall be classed as delinquent and suspended for all membership privileges which include voting on Unit business, holding office, participation in Unit activities, receipt of member benefits and all other privileges of membership.

2015 is the year of election for officers. Please think of whom you would like to represent our Auxiliary in office as Vice President/Membership, Ann and President, Polly are not running for these positions. Nominations take place in May, voting takes place in June and installation of officers takes place in July. The secretary position is chosen by the president and is not a nominated office. So please think and ask the person before nominating them for office if they
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would be interested.

Happy St. Patty's, don't drink too much
Green Beer.

Take Care and God Bless
President Polly Stout

**American Legion Auxiliary Breakfast
Burma Rd, McFarland**

April 26th, September 27th,

November 8th

8 am -12 Noon

A.Y.C.E.



Sick Call – Prayer List

Gary Salverson, John Guler, Jim Leyda, Sue
Wipperfurth's sister Linda, Marilyn Paulus (mother of
Carol Welch), Dennis Dancker, Roger Segebrecht, Dale
Everett, Ray VanKlyen, Sue Hargraves, Karl Schuetz,
Mike Valdovinos, Ron Walsvick 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,

We now have
over 92 members paid
up and are over 100
percent. You all did a
great job taking care of
your dues this year!
Thanks to all!

Our February
meeting was full of

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surprises. Ray, our S.A.L. Third District
Commander, mentioned that the top people in our
organization want new bylaws written. As of now,
we abide by our Legion Post 534 bylaws. We'll see
how this develops in the future.

Special note: our May meeting will include
the nomination of officers' positions. Just remember
that you must be present to nominate someone,
then at the June meeting we will vote. Installation of
new officers will be at the end of June.

The chili cook-off is March 28th from 11 a.m.
to 3 p.m. There are signup sheets in the bar/lounge
area. We need lots of varieties to make this 3rd
annual Chili bash a success! We're doing something
different this year with the proceeds. We will donate
to a sponsor who is taking a Post 534 member on
the Badger Honor Flight this spring. The sponsor is
a S.A.L. member from our own post!

SAL Commander,
Don (Hook) Egner

Proposed Constitution Amendment

American Legion Post 534

McFarland, WI

Ron Hillson has made the following proposal to add the
following to the Post Constitution:

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 7. Any member with fifty (50) or more
continuous years of membership to Post 534, shall have
their dues paid for by the Post, provided they remain a
member in good standing.

End proposal.

This proposal addition is made in accordance with
actions taken by the Board of Directors on January 17,
2007 and approved by the general membership on
February 2, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Hillson, Adjutant

A Note from the Auxiliary Vice President . . .

As you read in last month's newsletter,
Auxiliary President Polly Stout and I will both be
ending our terms of office this year. When you think
about the duties of an Officer, it can sometimes be
intimidating. But when you look at it in terms of
service, helping, and giving back, "excitement" is the
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word that comes to mind.

Being elected an Officer of our Unit was an honor and the highlight of my membership. I've enjoyed getting to know so many members (if only by name) by handling the membership duties. I've learned so much about the Auxiliary by answering members' questions and by visiting the state's American Legion Auxiliary website. (This website is available to anyone who logs in – you don't need to establish a User ID or password to use its many features: <http://www.amlegionauxwi.org>).

It doesn't matter how big or small a Unit is – each needs to have Officers in place to be voting participants for the business and interests of District, State and National units. All Officers have a common mission: To support and enrich the lives of our veterans, families and communities.

As my term comes to an end, I am hoping someone is willing and eager to become the next Vice President/Membership coordinator. And Polly hopes the same – that someone will step forward to take on the role of the next Auxiliary President.

Being an Officer means that you have definite responsibilities – but it doesn't mean that you have to do everything yourself! You can enlist the help and support of any number of your fellow members to help you carry out the duties of your Office. In fact, that's a good way to get someone involved who can step forward next time an Officer position becomes vacant!

I ask you to consider running for President or Vice President. If you contact me, I will be more than happy to talk with any of you about the Vice President's duties and responsibilities. You can also Contact Polly with questions about either positions.

After my term as Post 534 VP comes to an end, I will be transferring to a Post closer to my Door County home. The Forestville Post 372 has already welcomed me as a guest member and is anxious for me to become more involved. I will always hold my Unit 534 friends close in my heart and hope that you will continue to do so many good things for our veterans and their families. I will take everything I've learned from all of you and put it to good use with my new Unit.

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SPECIAL NOTE: If you haven't yet paid your 2015 dues, please do so right away. As of February 1st, a member has become *inactive* if dues are unpaid. To re-activate your membership, all you need to do is send a check for the dues. Contact either Polly or me if you have any questions.

Ann Kleist

kleist3753rpr@sbcglobal.net

Improvement Project Grants

Improvement projects at American Legion posts and necessary home repairs for veterans in need are eligible to receive grants from The Home Depot Foundation, a longtime supporter of The American Legion.

The Home Depot Foundation grants provide American Legion posts with funds and volunteer help to fix the little things that make huge differences: weatherizing windows, insulating attics, interior and exterior painting, installing new ceiling tiles, replacing fans and replacing flooring. Additionally, these grants provide an opportunity for Legion posts to aid veterans in need of home repairs. The Home Depot Foundation and The American Legion have teamed up hundreds of projects in communities everywhere.

There are two options for applying for the funds:

1. Community Impact Grants provide up to \$5,000 in The Home Depot gift cards for any project to be completed by The American Legion and/or community volunteers.

2. Team Depot Grants fund volunteer projects that utilize Team Depot, The Home Depot's associated volunteer force, along with volunteers from your American Legion post.

Legionnaires are encouraged to apply for both grants offered by The Home Depot Foundation, but only one at a time. Legionnaires are encouraged to contact their local Home Depot stores and ask for the Team Depot captains who can assist with grant applications.

Questions should be directed to Scott Miller, Deputy Director, Strategic Alliances at smiller@legion.org or 317-630-1220.

March, 2015

Legion Family Christmas Party

By: Jodie Armstrong

Our first annual Legion Family Christmas Party was a great success! We had an awesome turn out. There were tons of delicious food and loads of laughter and a lot smiles. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who brought food donations.

I need to give a special shout-out thanks to Mark Hanson, who arranged for a special guest from the North Pole...yes, no other than Santa Claus. He came loaded with candy canes and a camera. If you had your picture taken with Santa, please stop down to the Legion and pick it up.

If you have any suggestions for our 2015 Party, please talk to the Christmas Party Committee: Polly Stout, Mark Hanson and myself. Ho Ho and have a fantastic 2015!

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN USAA Social Networking Wire Fraud

Between October 2014 and January 2015, the Washington Metro Office, Computer Crime Investigative Unit, USACIDC, Quantico, VA, conducted research related to a counterfeiting and money laundering scheme targeting USAA members and Soldiers.

The scheme works as follows:

- A USAA member is contacted via social media by an individual claiming to be affiliated with USAA.
- The purported USAA representative will offer the USAA member an opportunity to take advantage of a rewards program, wherein the purported representative offers to upload funds through the USAA member's mobile banking application.
- The purported USAA representative requests the USAA member's mobile banking credentials and then uploads a check or checks usually in denominations just under \$5,000. The funds are immediately available after the mobile deposit is made.
- The purported representative then directs the USAA member to wire a finder's fee to the

purported USAA representative.

- The money that is wired out is picked up at another location by a money mule.
- The check deposited by the purported USAA representative doesn't clear, as the checks are counterfeit, and the USAA member's account is left with a negative balance for the funds they wired.

To date, USAA has lost millions of dollars as a result of these fraudulent deposits.

This information is being provided to educate and alert all personnel, as other banking institutions with the capability to deposit funds via mobile upload may also be targeted. Persons who have become victims of this activity should report the information to their banking institution.

American Legion Annual Birthday Celebration



Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members and family are invited to the American Legion Annual Birthday Celebration. This year it will be on **Saturday, March 21st from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.** It will be just a relaxed environment, so dress casually. Come play card games, board games, dice games or just hang out. **Food** will be **provided** by the Post. There will be a cash bar. Please mark your calendars and come on down for the afternoon – see you there!



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

**PRSRT 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

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Hose Rod & Gun Club 7 pm	Hunter Safety 6-9 pm Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm	S.A.L. Mtg 6:30 pm		Legion Mtg 7 pm	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No Rental	Hose Rod & Gun Club Dinner 5 pm Dance 7 pm	Hunter Safety 6-9 pm				Ray Popp Memorial Service 12 noon
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Soup Sandwich Bingo 12 noon		Hunter Safety 6-9 pm	Exec Bd 7 pm Newsletter Articles Due			McF Softball Assoc 10 am-noon
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Hunter Safety 6-9 pm				S.A.L. Chili Feed 12 noon-5 pm
29	30	31				

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			S.A.L. Mtg 6:30 pm		Legion Mtg 7 pm	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Hose Rod & Gun Club 7 pm	Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm				Cplimets Club Euchre Tournament 10 am-noon
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Rental 2-8 pm			Exec Bd 7 pm Newsletter Articles Due			McF Softball Assoc 10 am-noon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Soup Sandwich Bingo 12 noon						
26	27	28	29	30		
Auxiliary Breakfast 8 am-noon						