

Post Notes

August, 2017



Commander.....	Bill Bley	Service Officer.....	Russ Jenkins
First Vice.....	Mick Shumway	Chaplain.....	Dale Sankey
Second Vice.....	Kathy Durant	Historian.....	Rob Blanchar
Adjutant	Russ Reppen	Sgt. at Arms.....	Darrell Krenz
Finance.....	Jodie Armstrong		Marino Verdico and Nate Weier
Web Site.....	www.alp534.org	Post Phone Number.....	(608) 838-3249

Commander's Corner



You have a voice in the future of American Legion Post 534. Whether you are a member of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary, you may voice concerns, present ideas and make suggestions to improve our post. General membership meetings for the Legion are at 7:00 pm on the first Friday

of every month. The S.A.L. meets on the first Wednesday and the Auxiliary meets on the first Tuesday. Attend your appropriate meeting and you will have a chance to voice your concerns, present ideas and vote on solutions and improvements. Be a proud and active member. For seven decades, Post 534 has provided support to military families, veterans and others in need of help right here in our local community. Legion youth activity and scholarship programs provide benefits that will keep on giving for years to come.

Thanks to everyone for the great turnout to raise the Memorial Flags at 6:00 am on the Fourth of July. And a special thank you to all who volunteered to fold and put the flags away that evening – especially the representatives from the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

Congratulations to our new First Vice Mick Shumway who represented our Post at the recent Department Convention and was elected to the position of 3rd District Historian

Don't forget about the Legion Benefit Raffle on

August 12th. Tickets are \$50.00 for dinner and the drawing party. There are a total of \$4,800 in cash prizes including the \$3,000 grand prize, plus numerous other prizes generously donated by area sponsors.

If you have any questions regarding how you can become more involved in our Post's many causes and activities, please call me at 608-579-1517.

Bill Bley, Commander

From the Chaplain



Be ready, God wants to do something great in your life. Get your passion back. You have everything you need. Against all odds, you will win. Don't let negative thoughts hold you back. Your best days are ahead. Stand strong. You can talk yourself out of your dreams; you can also talk yourself into your dreams. With

God, all things are possible. You do not have to be afraid of whatever comes up for you to do. Maybe you are not asking God for enough. Go for the gold. The only one that is holding you back is you.

Each Legionnaire should be alert to the physical and spiritual needs of his/her comrades. As Chaplain, I seek to minister to people wherever there is a need. Please notify me when there is a death, illness or special concern in the membership.

God is the source of all rights and privileges.

Thank you for your service.

Chaplain Dale, 608-395-5942

PS: Fountain of youth: Worry less, stop being frustrated by things you cannot control. The only thing you can control is your attitude. Life happens to all of us. Make a conscious choice every morning: I will not get upset today. Enjoy the journey. Every day is a gift from God. If you learned you had only three months to live, how many of your worries would disappear?

Membership



I had the pleasure of attending the 99th Department Convention in Appleton, WI this month. At the convention I spoke with many Post, District, and Department Vice Commanders about membership recruitment and retention. I came away with a better understanding of how 100% Membership Posts meet their goals set

forth by the Department year after year.

For instance, to recruit new members, it is important to speak with other veterans about how the Post gives back to veterans and the community at large. Post 534 has a proven track record of supporting children and youth, veterans, and the community as a whole. Whether it be through honoring our Vietnam Era veterans at the 50th Anniversary commemoration of the War, sending distinguished young scholars from McFarland to Badger Boys and Girls State to learn about how the system of government works, or providing scholarships to worthy young graduates attending institutions of higher learning, just to name a handful. The American Legion provides many ways in keeping the ideals of the four pillars of our organization: veterans' affairs and rehabilitation, national security, Americanism, and children & youth.

By explaining how our Post contributes in these ways, it gives potential members of our organization an understanding of how their membership would contribute to the greater effort the Legion prides itself upon. I would like to challenge every member to carry a membership application with them in their wallet or purse to always be at the ready to recruit new members. If you meet someone who did not serve in the military, remind them of the parts of our Legion Family (The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of the American Legion) to see if

they are qualified and interested in joining our family and contributing to the efforts of our Legion.

I would also like each of our members reading this to reach out to Legion members who pay dues but do not attend meetings regularly to let them know of some of the events and goings on at our Post. By showing them that we care about including them in our Post activities perhaps we can bring them back into the fold and show them that we care about their ideas and perspectives on how our Post can better serve veterans. A Post with more active members is more attractive to potential members. This is important in recruiting younger veterans from the Gulf War Era (1990-Present). These younger veterans want to know that if they join an organization and spend valuable time away from their families at monthly meetings that it will be worthwhile. It is important to honor veterans of all generations but to target younger veterans, we need to think about holding more events that are family friendly.

I look forward to speaking with all of our members about ideas to increase membership and retention while I serve our Post as the new Vice Commander of Post 534, McFarland, WI. Thank you for your support while I hold this office and serve each of you over the next year. I am very interested in the more seasoned veterans of our organization, the Past Vice Commanders, and Past Commanders to brainstorm ideas to meet and exceed our membership goals set forth by the Department. Here is to a successful year for our Legion Family.

Mick Shumway, First Vice,
Membership Chairman

Auxiliary News



It was very nice to have a light activity schedule during the month of July. I hope everyone had an awesome Fourth of July with family and friends. I know our house was grilling up a storm.

We kick off the month of August with our meeting night on the 1st. The 2nd Auxiliary Golf Outing will be held on

August 5th. Kelly has done a great job filling up all the teams. The following weekend is the Legion Raffle on

August 12th. If you have not purchased a ticket, please see a Post Officer or Raffle Chairman, Mike Larson. What a great way to support our Post and chance to win \$3000. We may need to provide some kitchen assistance. Our Senior Salute will be held August 20, 2017. Hope everyone will be able to come have some cake and ice cream. Invitations will be going out very soon. If you would like to help, please contact me.

We are collecting school supplies for the McFarland Community Stuff the Bus project. If you come across a deal, pick up a few extra grade school supplies for the collection drive. At our meeting, Bonnie Jenkins will provide additional information.

I hear Jan Lippman and Kay Klema went shopping for the VA hospital. We may need someone to take a load up to the VA Hospital. Let me know if you are heading that way.

With the crazy summer temps and tornado season in full swing, we need to keep an eye on our family, friends and our furry 4-legged friends. Our senior members and friends are at high risk for heat stroke and injuries. Nothing hydrates better than water!

Thank you for all your help and support!
 Jodie Armstrong, President
 (608-332-3688)



Sick Call – Prayer List

Dennis Dancker, Roger Segebrecht, John Guler, John Lynch, Leo Endres, Karl Scheutz, Gary Venden, William Peters, Don Haugen, Dick Becker, Mackenzie Schoeller (Bob & Sue Hargraves granddaughter), Dale Everett, Virgil Houff, Kathy Popp and Rita Mae Schmitz

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

Legion Chaplain – Dale Sankey (608-395-5942)

Auxiliary Chaplain – Ellyn Thompson (608-838-3395)

S.A.L. Chaplain – David Sawyer (608-444-3768)

Sunshine Person – Sue Wipperfurth (608-535-0495)

Please have your September articles to me by Wednesday, August 16.

Thanks, Sharon Scallon, editor

S.A.L. Corner



With the elections in the legion family over, it's time to start the new year. As commander, along with my officers, we are going to make some changes – all for the good. With new fund raisers, maybe monthly meat raffles, a brat fry in September, our Swiss steak dinner in October and many other ideas that have been brought up, we can give back to the community and Post 534.

We hope to have more candidates joining the S.A.L. Remember dues are to be paid to Dick by October.

The most reliable way to predict the future is to create it.

Thank you,
 Commander David Sawyer

Vietnam-Era Vets (11/1/1955 – 5/15/1975)

American Legion Post 534 is one of 9 American Legion Posts in WI to be named a "Partner" in the DOD program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and, in particular, the veterans of that era. We have hosted two recognition ceremonies. The feedback received from the veterans and their families was very positive.

We plan to host another ceremony honoring Vietnam-Era vets on Sat., Sept. 23, 2017. If you served in any branch of the military or merchant marine, anywhere in the world, between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, we would like to publicly acknowledge your service and sacrifice. If you are willing to participate or would like more information please contact:

Jim Wickert
 (608) 241-2438

jwick16060@tds.net

Please give me your name, dates of service and branch (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine) and contact information.



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

**PRSRT STD
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 MADISON, WI**

Bar Manager.....Karen Larson
 Rental Officer.....Jim Wickert
 Newsletter.....Sharon Scallon
 Building/Grounds.....Denny Haugen

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm	2 S.A.L. Mtg 6:30 pm	3	4 Legion Mtg 7 pm	5 Post Golf Outing
6	7	8	9	10	11 No Rental	12 Legion Dinner & Raffle
13 McF HS Football Team Dinner 5-7 pm	14	15	16 Exec Bd Mtg 7 pm Newsletter Articles Due	17	18	19
20 McF HS Football Team Dinner 5-7 pm	21	22	23	24	25	26 Rental - Birthday Party 12-10 pm
27 HS Football Dinner 5-7 pm Vintage Auto Club (Shelter)	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Legion Mtg 7 pm	2
3	4	5 Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm	6 S.A.L. Mtg 8:30 pm	7	8	9 No Rental
10 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-noon Football Dinner 5-7 pm	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 McF HS Football Team Dinner 5-7 pm	18	19	20 Exec Bd Mtg 7 pm Newsletter Articles Due	21	22	23 Vietnam-era Vets Recognition Ceremony 2-3 pm
24 McF HS Football Team Dinner 5-7 pm	25	26	27	28	29	30