



WATCHWORD

June 2013 - August 2013

The Official Publication of American Legion Post #43
Faribault, MN



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Good Day Patriots,

Finally, Spring has arrived! Looking at the schedule below, you can see that there is a full slate of activity and I cannot thank our staff and volunteers enough for their dedicated hard work. Along with this sudden change of season we are now able to catch up on yard work and we are looking for any number of reasons to remain outdoors. Along with this sudden change of season, comes also the changing of the guard at your Legion Post. On Monday, June 3rd, the membership meeting will include the 2013-2014 Officers commissioned by representatives of the 3rd District.

As seen below, the schedule of activities includes many familiar events such as Thursday burger baskets, Friday Club Suppers, along with weddings, reunions and other causes for celebration. Mixed in with these events is the Flag Day Ceremony which will be held on Friday, June 14th at 7 pm. We are planning on grilling burgers outdoors and we have a solid program in store. The local Scout Troops will join us for the evening as we remember the meaning of Old Glory and all that she represents during this most sacred of rituals. This event will be open to the public and I hope that we have solid attendance from our Post members.

Memorial Day will be fast upon us and I would encourage you to take part in the Courthouse Ceremony at the Rice County Veterans Memorial. The Memorial has seen a great deal of growth since one year ago and within this next week, there will be 50+ new paver stones placed, 20 of which will be dedicated to Veterans of Rice County who served during the Civil War. If you have a specific interest in history, please consider involvement with this important project. The Memorial consists of some 650+ paver stones that are a snapshot in time representing a blanket of all walks of life to date. Each stone tells a story. Each stone is the lifeblood of an individual who stood apart from the many and took the oath to defend our country for the greater good. Collectively, each stone represents the fabric of our society and as you move along through the names, you can easily recognize the significance of such a Memorial and the impact on the community for which it stands. This Memorial Expansion Project is an all-volunteer effort and there are only a handful of folks involved that would welcome any time that you may have to offer.

Following the Memorial Day Courthouse Ceremony, the annual parade will ensue downtown and we would like to see as many Veterans as possible walk the parade route. If you are able, please consider donning your service uniform or Legion cap and join the Color Guard as we show our respect for all Veterans. The parade will end at Central Park with guest speakers arranged by the Rice County Central Veterans Association.

From the volunteer standpoint overall, it's not how much or how little time you are able to offer up, the point is to just be involved in some way, shape, or form. We all have busy schedules and we balance our time between family, work, and other activities. To be sure, there is a high degree of satisfaction that comes from volunteering for an effort that has an end result of serving for a cause that is greater than one's self. Case in point: growing up on my Grandparent's farm in NW Iowa as a young'un during summer vacation break from school, I learned at a very young age the importance of stepping up and volunteering to help out when the opportunity presented itself. When a neighbor needed a hand with something, anything, if my grandparents weren't the first in line to help them out, they were definitely a close 10th. This is because, back in the day, that's just how the country was getting along. Most everyone knew that just as right as 1+1=2, when it came time to help out, you just stepped up and offered assistance because that was the right thing to do. Oh, how I long for those God-forsaken days of walking the neighbor's bean field on a 100 degree day with nothing more than a sunbaked back, a hand-me-down pair of gloves full of holes from thistle-thorns and an attitude that consisted of "can-do." At the time, of course, I didn't appreciate this strange phenomenon in the sense of what could be described as "volunteerism." Ha! Quite contraire, for this clearly seemed to me as nothing short of breaking every known law applying to child labor! In the end, the appreciation factor of that experience compounded incrementally as I grew older.

Way, way, back in June of 2011, I wrote the following...

Short story: As a youngster, I spent my entire summer vacation in between school years on my grandparent's farm near Cherokee, Iowa. When I wasn't walking beans, baling hay, or tending to the cattle and hogs, I would often sit and ponder about a simple little sign that hung on the wall of the kitchen of that beloved farmhouse. My grandmother kept this little sign that simply read, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life." During those years, I never really understood the meaning behind that sign. At this time, however, my Fellow Patriots, I would submit to you this statement as the defining quote of where we are to go with Post 43. We have a solid foundation built over years of dedicated service by many fine, outstanding individuals. I look forward to meeting you over the course of this upcoming season and I very much look forward to serving as your American Legion Post 43 Commander.

With you, I shall succeed...

Today is the first day of the rest of "OUR" life...

So now, as I fast forward some 30+ years and I look to the upcoming leadership for direction of the Post. With my short story in mind, I cannot help but look back upon these past two years and see exactly just how far we have come along with continuing to build a Post that is stronger. Compared to two years ago, financially, your Post is much stronger. Your Post is also much stronger in terms of our ability to serve Veterans, and we are stronger in our ability to serve this community. For me personally, these past two years have gone by with what seems like the blink of an eye. Since my installment as Commander in June of 2011, Post 43 has undergone a transformation of great magnitude. This did not happen by accident for within Post 43, there is a very dedicated core group of staff and volunteers. I am very appreciative for the opportunity to have served as your Commander these past two years. I feel a great sense of pride and satisfaction in knowing that, as a collective group, we have been able to accomplish so much in such a short time. I have every bit of confidence in the leadership team that will see us through the next term and beyond as we strive to bring Post 43 to the next level. With YOU, I feel as though I have succeeded and I Thank You for your continued support.

May God Bless You and May God Bless the United States of America.

Today is the first day of the rest of "OUR" life...

For God & Country,

Very Respectfully,

Kirk D. Mansfield – Commander – American Legion Post 43

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Greetings American Legion Auxiliary and our American Legion Family,

Our American Legion Auxiliary year of reporting our activities for our annual reports ended on March 31 and our new reporting year started on April 1st. Again this year, after doing the annual reports, I was amazed at the number of projects our unit had done during the year and the number of members who helped with these projects. Our two biggest fund raisers for the year are our Poppy program and the Spring Salad Luncheon. Both of these projects involve so many of our volunteers and we thank you for your help. These two projects alone contributed over \$9000 to our veterans accounts! Two of our new projects this year were the Fisher House and the Pocket Flags. Two excellent projects that we would like to continue.

We would like to see more members at our monthly meetings, but we realize that for whatever reason, it is not always possible for members to attend, but we have wonderful projects that you can participate in without leaving your house. The Hastings Veterans Home always has a need for small simple items that can be sewn at home. I have patterns for tote bags, neck pillows and other items. They are also always in need of comfort care kits which consist of shaving products, personal hygiene items and decks of cards. These can be put in the small plastic pencil/crayon boxes found in the school supply aisle. Also, we are always in need of items to be sent to our troops. Some of the items needed are beef jerky, baby wipes, personal hygiene items, hard candies, pens, paper, socks, powdered drink mixes, instant oatmeal and soups. Donations to pay for postage are always welcome also. We will be doing the "paper shower" again this fall for the Fisher House. When you are shopping, pick up an extra paper item and by fall you will have enough items to donate. Last year we had about \$500 worth of paper products that we donated to the Fisher House and it was very much appreciated! **Please consider doing some of these "at home" projects for our Auxiliary.** As a reminder, please write down the hours you spend on any project and also the \$ amount donated. These are very important to record in our annual reports. I know that we are missing hours that don't get in to our reports because they weren't given to us. Your hours can be recorded on a sheet of paper and left in the auxiliary mailbox.

May is going to be a really busy month for our Auxiliary. At our May membership meeting we will be having the election of officers. The nominating committee has had a hard job trying to get members to volunteer for an office. We have lots of mentors who can help you if you will just say "yes" to being an officer. The executive board is very good at helping new members. Although we have almost 240 members, there are just a few carrying the "whole load". Also, we are always looking for new members to join our auxiliary. We need less than 10 members to meet our membership goal!

If you have been to an event at the Legion, you may have noticed new salad bowls and tongs, new salad plates and other serving items which have been bought for our Legion from our Sunday Night Supper fund. We have lots of events scheduled at the Legion, so we want to have our presentation look nice.

Poppy Days are coming very soon. On Monday, May 13, we will need volunteers to unfurl the 3200 poppies that we will be distributing on Thursday and Friday, May 16 and 17th. Irene Eiler, our poppy chairman, is scheduling volunteers for these days.

On May 13 at 2:30 pm, our Auxiliary will be hosting the Birthday Party for the residents at St. Lucas. I need a couple of volunteers to help me with that event. Also in May, the executive board will be hosting the end of the year party for the card marathon.

Our District 3 Convention will be held in New Prague on May 17-19. We would like a good representation from our Unit because we will be hosting the 2013-2014 Convention next year in Faribault. The registration is \$10 before May 1. Our auxiliary has budgeted money for conventions, so your registration would be paid.

Memorial Day activities will be on Monday, May 27 starting with the program at the courthouse at 9:00am. The parade will follow at 10:00am starting on Central Ave. If I can get enough participation, I would like to recognize female veterans by having them ride in the parade. If you know of a female veteran please pass the word. They can contact me for more information. After the parade there will be the traditional program at Central Park followed by lunch at the Legion clubrooms.

Our June general membership meeting will be the installation of new officers for the year. Our Department President, Raleen Tolzman is scheduled to be our guest. Let's have a good attendance to welcome her.

June 14 is Flag Day and we are planning another Flag Day Program to retire old and worn out flags collected during the year. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year and we can have the program outside as we had planned last year. Watch for more details.

This will be my last newsletter as your Auxiliary President. The past two years have been a learning experience. We have started new projects along with our ongoing projects and they have been successful. The number of hours donated by Auxiliary members is outstanding as well as the number of volunteers involved in our projects. Our unit is one of more than 9500 across the country. All together we have a pretty big impact every year. **Won't you consider joining us!!**

I want to personally thank all of you for your commitment to our Veterans.

The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to serve veterans, their families and their communities.

Louise Flom, Auxiliary President, Unit #43

Chef Brian's Corner

Hello Everyone,

Well, we made it through a busy month of April! Many THANKS to all who stepped up and volunteered. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed. This summer (if Old Man Winter ever decides to leave) is busy packed with weddings, and the weddings and banquets as we go into the fall season.

Our Friday night Club Suppers have been picking up. The "Chef's Special" that was started at the beginning of the year has had good reviews so far. I am open to ideas for different Chef Special meals.

Also, if you haven't heard, we hired another Chef. Welcome, Chef Luis "Texas" Cisneros. Texas is a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu in Mendota Heights and is also serving in the Minnesota National Guard as a fueler.(Strike 1, he is a Dallas Cowboy Fan!) Between us two chefs we are going to be expanding our daily lunch menu along with the possibility of off-premise catering for your entertainment or party needs. You will get quality food choices at a great price with fantastic service! I am working on getting a new lunch menu ready by mid-June. We will be Faribo's Home of the Juicy Lucy!

Good Eats!, Chef Brian

June

2 – 80th Birthday Party
 3 – Installation of Officers Night
 Social Hour 6 – 7pm
 General Membership Mtg 7 pm
 7 - Club Supper 6 – 7:30pm
 Historical Society
 8 – Wedding
 13 – Burger Night 5:30 – 7pm
 14 – Flag Retirement Ceremony – 7pm
 15 – Wedding
 16 – Steam & Gas Engine Breakfast
 Frontline Honors Ceremony – 1:00pm
 17 - Executive Board Meetings 6pm
 19 - 40 & 8 Meeting
 20 – Korean Last Man's
 21 – Club Supper 6 – 7:30pm
 25 – Alcorn Meeting
 23 – 50th Anniversary Party
 27 – Burger Night

July

1 - Membership Meetings 7 – 8pm
 4 – Happy 4th of July
 5 - Club Supper 6 – 7:30pm
 11 –Burger Night 5:30 – 7pm
 13 - Wedding
 15 - Executive Board Meetings – 7pm
 17 - 40 & 8 Meeting
 19 - Club Supper 6 – 7:30pm
 20 - Wedding
 21 - Frontline Honors Ceremony – 1:00pm
 25 – Burger Night 5:30 – 7 pm
 27 – Wedding

August

2 - Club Supper
 3 - Wedding
 5 - Membership Meetings 7 – 8pm
 6 - NARFE
 8 – Burger Night 5:30 – 7pm
 10 - Wedding
 14 – Last Man WWI & II, Korea
 16 - Club Supper 6-7:30pm
 17 – 417th Reunion
 18 - Frontline Honors Ceremony – 1:00pm
 19 - Executive Board Meetings 6pm
 20 – Farm Bureau Mtg & Dinner
 21 – 40 & 8 Meeting
 22 – Burger Night 5:30 – 7pm
 24 - Wedding

FREE BILLIARDS!

Saturdays & Sundays
From 10:00am – 3:00pm
 Simply produce your American Legion
 Membership Card to the on - duty bartender.

Burger Baskets
& Chicken Strip Baskets
Every 2nd & 4th Thursday
5:30pm – 7:00pm
ONLY \$4

Daily Lunches Served
 Monday thru Friday
 11:00am – 1:00pm

FrontLine Honors Ceremony

1:00pm – every 3rd Sunday

*We remember the fallen from the war in
 Afghanistan.*

Their sacrifice. Our honor.

Sunday Suppers

5:00pm – 7:30pm
Generous Servings
Reasonable Prices

The Post has several varieties of patriotic tee-shirts and hooded sweatshirts for sale. We are taking orders for new Legion jackets as well.
 You can inquire at the bar for prices and available sizes.

May 11th, 2013 – Craft Fair/Bake Sale/Garage Sale Results:
 Table rental for crafters. 260.00
 Kitchen for breakfast and lunch. 132.00
 Garage sale...638.00
 1132.50

Thanks to my dedicated crew that made this event successful!!!
 Thanks for the Nummy baked goods and donations for the garage sale.

Flag Day Retirement Ceremony **Friday, June 14th, 7 pm**

Bring your worn flag for proper disposal
 Grilling Outdoors (weather permitting)

Happy Hour!

- Monday – Friday.....4:00pm – 7:00pm
- Saturday –Sunday10:00am – 2: 00pm
 - New Seasonal Beer – Now on Tap!

Your Post 43 WatchWord newsletter
is now available on our newly established
Website:

<http://www.mnlegionpost43.org>

If you have any specific recommendations for our
Website, our Post, or any general questions,
please send a message to:

FboLegion43@hotmail.com



Post 43 Officers

Commander: Jack Claeson
1st Vice: Dennis Rinehart
2nd Vice: Larry Mensing
Adjutant: Brian Niner
Chaplain: Brian Niner
Finance Officer: Bob Johnson

Executive Board Members:

Ron Brown, Jim Douda, Bob Flom, Dave Lee,
Luverne Malecha, Kirk Mansfield,
John McDonough, Glen Wegner

Auxiliary Officers:

President: Candy Braun
1st Vice: Martha Piper
2nd Vice: Kandie Mensing
Secretary: Rose Johnson
Treasurer: Darlene Liverseed
Sgt at Arms: Geri Ochs/Ruth Seykora
Chaplain: Louise Flom

Executive Board Members:

Lucy Hill, Rose Johnson, Judy Sommersness

Sons of the American Legion

Commander: Rick Rost
1st Vice: Paul Johnson
Adjutant: Matt Hilley
Treasurer: Bob Johnson
Chaplain: Mike Pittman
Sgt at Arms: Ben Patee

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