



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hasso Briese Post 0473

March 2014

FROM THE COMMANDER

Chet Seviola

This month I want to spend some time discussing Legion membership rules. I want to do this so that you know the rules and can recruit new members to the Legion. A smaller reason is the pressure the Legion is facing to prove that existing members are eligible.

The Legion was founded so that all those serving in the US Armed Forces during times of crisis, regardless of place of service, are eligible to belong to the American Legion. The Legion was founded in 1919 as a wartime veteran's organization. It was chartered by Congress on this basis. Our membership eligibility dates parallel dates set by Congress for wartime service. To be a Legion member you must have served one day of active service in any of the services during these dates.

It troubles me that there is a movement to verify the membership. I have read several proposals to do this. One that troubles me is that each of us will be required to present a copy of our DD-214 so that someone can verify our dates of service. What a monumental waste of time. You verified your dates. The membership chairman verified your dates. Now you may have to bring a DD-214. If yours has been misplaced you must go to the county Veterans Service Officer or you can request a copy from <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. What a huge waste of our time. You already did it!

Suggested Military Charities

My suggestion for a good military charity is the Air Force Aid Society. In order to show you I went to their site on line where there are pounds of numbers, financial statements and reports. I could not find what I was after; so let me tell you personally. I was a student squadron commander for 550 students. We had frequent home emergencies. When a student needed airplane tickets or money they got it fast. AFAS helped many people. They receive top ratings by several places that rate charities. Check them out at: <http://www.afas.org/ea>.

A definition worth remembering:

There's an annual contest at Bond University, Australia, calling for the most appropriate definition of a contemporary term.

This year's chosen term was "Political Correctness."

The winning student wrote:

"Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and promoted by mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of poop by the clean end."

S.A.L UPDATE

Jim Hovda – Adjutant

We have been invited to have our business meeting jointly with the legion folks at 7:00 p.m., Monday, 14 March at the post. Rather than have a separate meeting to conduct limited business with a few members, we will have the opportunity to gather with both the legion and auxiliary folks. It should be a good time and an opportunity to meet with others of our American Legion Family. We welcome all S.A.L. members to attend. Membership meetings will not be held monthly, only as the need to conduct business is an issue. This month we will explore expending money jointly with the color guard to have new carpet installed at the post. Attend to express your thoughts and ideas on what we should be doing this spring and summer (if they ever get here) to support our veterans.

WARRIOR COLUMN

Jim Hovda, First Sergeant, U.S. Army (Retired)

Did you know that is 6,679 miles from post member Sergeant Travis Peterson's base in Afghanistan to little Rice MN? (As the crow flies)

1SG-

Heard there's some cold weather back there. Hopefully that warms up a tad for everyone back there. Feel bad for all those people that have to work outside during the negative temperatures. It's steady in the high 60's here lately. It's been raining the last two days though. Not too much new here in Pasab, Afghanistan. Nearing the fighting season again... We had a base attack here that you might have seen on the news. The injured are expected to recover.

There have been some issues with mail getting to us, due to the mail coming out of New York and the nasty weather they have been getting as well. I recently got a stack of mail that was sent in early December. Christmas cards opened weeks after Christmas that were sent almost a month before Christmas. It still brought a smile though.

Have been playing a lot of Spades lately with the guys. The nightly card games really seem to bring a sense of enjoyment. Keeps morale up when the Joes get board.

Since it's raining so much and we have some down time, thought I'd catch up on emails and letter. Hope all is well back at home.

Did you know that it is 6,679.74 miles from my FOB in Afghanistan to Rice?

-Sgt Peterson

Who works when DC closes due to snow ?



HONOR GUARD COLUMN

Jim Hovda

Our annual training and appreciation dinner was a huge success. Some good training that focused on some changes in interment procedures were addressed along with a few administrative items. We are still looking to recruit new members. Especially some of you younger folks are needed for parades and help with funerals and interments. Contact me at 320/393-4339 or jhovda.rice@jetup.net for more info.

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

Don Miklos

Greetings Comrades,

We are so blessed to live in a country that prizes freedom above all else, clings to the right to choice and calls itself “The land of the free and the home of the brave”. However, God’s words remind us that with freedom comes responsibility. Liberty should not be confused with a license to do whatever we want. Jesus did not come to abolish the laws, but to fulfill them.

In a warring world that justifies preventative strikes and o.k’s collateral damages, Jesus warns us not to do this in anger or hatred. True, a soldier must sometime take a life. But only to save his own or that of a comrade and then only if you can reconcile the necessity with God. Remembering that reconciliation begins in the heart and not the mind. Sound impossible? As an angel once told a young woman “nothing will be impossible with God”. (Luke 1:37)

Try reading Matthew’s Gospel 5 – 7 in its entirety. Jesus gives five great speeches. It is an agenda for us, offering a blueprint for the transformation of the world. On the Sermon on the Mount he gave us the Beatitudes, which encompasses it all. If we live in the blessed state of being poor in Spirit, mourning the pain and suffering of the world, being meek, hungering for justice, being merciful, pure of heart, peacemakers, and persecuted for the sake of righteousness. Then we become the Lord’s salt, which seasons and preserves life. THEN, we have fulfilled the responsibility that accompanies freedom. THEN, we are the light that casts out darkness and evil. THEN, we fully understand what it means to live in “The Land of the Free and The Home of the Brave”.

May God Graciously bless you and keep the fire of Freedom and Justice alive in your hearts.

Your Chaplain, Don L. Miklos

KEYS FOR CASH FREE MONEY, a take-off from the Alamo. Cheryl and Sandy have a different twist. **EVERY SATURDAY** at 8:00 P.M. the bartender will draw a time, anywhere from 8:00 – 9:00 P.M. whatever time is drawn, that is when the cash drawing will be held. How do you get in on this bonus? Just stop in at the post and enter your name. It’s free. No money. You’ll be given a number and if it is drawn, you win. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.** As of the writing of this article the cash is \$175.00. The prize will hit a maximum of \$500.00. Eventually, someone will take home the cash. Don’t miss the Saturday evening meat raffles, proceeds benefit area groups, come on over and try your luck.

THE FISHING STRINGER

Darlene Hiscock

Ladies and gentlemen - - Spearing has been good. Several entries with the winning fish a 38-inch NP caught by none other than Dave Friederich. He won't tell me where he caught it. I think it is his super-secret honey hole. He also won on the walleye with a 29-inch fish on hook and line.

Believe this or not, I will be heading for Arizona for a couple weeks of fishing. I'll have a report for you all when I get back. I hope you did not have too much difficulty getting housed off the lakes. As of the 20th Jim Hovda reported that he counted only 44 houses on the big part of Little Rock Lake.

Please say a prayer for one of my favorite fishermen, Harvey Meinert. He has difficult health issues facing him and every prayer will help.

It was good to see "Stormn" Norman Meinert back making his rounds in Rice. God Bless.

Darlene Hiscock
AKA Ms. Tackle Box.

FROM THE CLUB

Cheryl Bovy

I don't know about all of you, but this lady is sick of snow and cold. March was cruel so lets hope April is a lot kinder.

Feb. was a good month here at the club. We had a great Valentines dinner of Prime rib that Mark from the Creamery catered. Excellent thanks Mark and crew. We had a birthday party for Rosie and our softball team had their annual party. Thanks to all of you for having your parties here and supporting the Legion.

We have our key for cash drawing and meat raffle every Sat. night so come out and win meat and money.

Bingo is played every Wed night at 7pm. Again come win money and have a great time.

Call the club at 393-4545 if you are interested in having a party and would like to use the facilities.

Thank you
Cheryl Bovy

AUXILIARY NEWS

Janice Martin

Hello Ladies,

At our February meeting we decided to keep our dues the same as before, \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children for 2015.

Our Brat sale fund raising form has been filled out and submitted now its wait and see.

Our Valentines dinner headed up by Pat Fuchs was a great success! Thank you to Pat and all the ladies who helped and served!

Remember, if you want continuous years of membership, to get your dues paid up for 2014. Not sure if you have paid check the year on your membership card.

The Auxiliary dinner is March 11, 2014. The March dinner consists of Beef Burgundy, baby red potatoes, veggies, salads and desserts. Our March group is: Darla Swenson, Darlene Hiscock, and Peggy Kerestes.

Know also that everyone listed on our sick call board are remembered and in the thoughts and prayers of our members. If there is anyone that is in needing anything, let me know.

Next month we will be looking for members to help with our Easter Egg hunt which will be at the Watab Township hall on Palm Sunday so if you can lend a hand please call. Thanks Janice

HOLD YOUR EVENT AT THE RICE LEGION you can host a party or other event at our Legion Post FOR FREE... No clean up and we can provide a bartender. Catering is an option, or you can host your own food. Catering can be done by Creative Catering.

MARCH 2014 LEGION CALENDAR

01 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.

03 The "Star-Spangled Banner" made U.S. National Anthem. (1931)

05 BINGO at the post. 7:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday.

08 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.

09 Daylight savings time begins. (Spring ahead)

10 Legion w/S.A.L. & Auxiliary meetings. (See below)

11 Auxiliary Dinner 5 – 7:00 p.m. Post

12 BINGO at the post 7:00 P.M.

15 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M. Am Leg B'day (1919)

16 U.S. Military Academy founded. (1802)

17 St. Patrick's Day. British forces evacuate Boston. (1776)

19 BINGO at the post 7:00 P.M. Iraq War begins. (2003)

20 First day of spring. (Will it really begin?)

22 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.

23 Battle of Pork Chop Hill begins – Korea. (1953)

25 National Medal of Honor Day.

26 BINGO at the post 7:00 P.M.

29 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.

29 Last combat forces leave Vietnam. (1973)

31 Somalia Campaign Ended.

(1995)**NOTE:** The legion meetings start with (1) Legion Club Committee 4:30 P.M., Pine Country Bank (2) Legion Board of Directors at 5:00 P.M. P.C. Bank & (3) Legion w/ S.A. L. & Auxiliary meeting 7:00 P.M. at the Legion Post. (Joint meetings)

AIRBORNE HERITAGE

Jim Hovda – Former paratrooper

In 1942 both the 502nd and 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiments were activated in 1942 at Ft. Benning and Bragg respectively. Of note, in 1944 the U.S. Marine Corps deactivated their 1st Marine Parachute Regiment. Currently, the USMC has paratroopers in Force Recon, ANGLICO and special operations units. We have two former USMC paratroopers in our post, Wayne Carriveau and Len Smallwood.

IMPORTANT POINTS OF CONTACT:

LEADERSHIP

Legion Commander - Chet Seviola 320/584-2046 seviola@clearwire.net
Auxiliary President - Janice Martin 320/393-2410 janice2177@aol.com
S.A.L. -

MEMBERSHIP

Legion - Floyd Hinkemeyer 320/393-2854 fhinkemeyer@jetup.net
Auxiliary - Nancy Anderson 320/393-2108 njanderson07@gmail.com
S.A.L. -

CHAPLAINS

Legion - Don Miklos 320/584-5825
Auxiliary - Jan Hovda 320/393-4339 janhovda@jetup.net
SAL - Emil Williams 320/393-2203 EBWilli@jetup.net

GUARD

Jim Hovda 320/393/4339 jhovda.rice@jetup.net

POST

Manager - Cheryl Bovy 320/393-4545 cbovy@hotmail.com

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

Benton County - George Fiedler 320/968-5044 gfiedler@co.benton.mn.us
Morrison County - Paul Froncek 320/632-0290
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