



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hasso Briese Post 0473

January 2015

FROM THE COMMANDER

Chet Seviola

I want to take this opportunity to say Thank You to all Legion members who made 2014 such a big successes. You did a wide variety activities and I would like to mention some of them.

Annual Rice Fun Days - The wide variety of uniforms in the parade was very impressive. Bob Kerestes says his Knights of Columbus uniform out classed us all. (He did not say that, but his uniform was great.) So was the parade. The food at the club was really good.

Patriot Day for 9/11 was celebrated at the flagpole. Again you all looked impressive, especially the bag piper. His playing and uniform were a high light of the ceremony.

Ms. Tackle Box did a lot of work doing the fishing contest. Congratulations to all the winners.

Jim Hovda's Warriors were active making moves to and from the hostilities. We are proud of all of them. Congratulations Warriors!

Thank you for your help at the grade school ceremonies, especially the flag folding demonstration and narrative.

To those that helped with the Christmas Wreaths at Camp Ripley you sure made the place look great.

The honor guards at the funeral home and at graveside were impressive. That is not me talking, that is the families who were so grateful.

The monthly meals hosted by the Auxiliary were really good. These take place the day after the business meetings.

Kilroy the Army truck classed up our ceremonies. Thank you Jim and the volunteer drivers.

The monument occasionally needed attention. Thank you to all that helped. You make the city proud of the monument.

All we have to do is ask and we have lots of help doing all these things. You should be proud of the work you do.

Thank You for all you do for the Legion.

For God and Country

Comrades,

Our motto, "For God and Country", has served those of us in the Legion since our inception it is also the motto of those serving our country at present.

One who has served with honor, courage and bravery is our comrade and fellow soldier, Amanda Stewart. Recently returned from Afghanistan, w\she now faces a grave health crisis. She has given much of herself and her family has scarified tremendously so we may remain a free nation. If there is anyway you can help them with anything during these trying times, now is the time for us to give back.

As your Chaplain, I especially as for your most fervent prayers, asking our gracious God to touch her with his heavenly continence. Pray that he gives her the graces to overcome this greatest challenge in her life, I as you to do this in all Sincerity. May our Lord God give Amanda much needed strength and bless her with his Holy Light.

Your Chaplain, Don Miklos

TO THE POST EVERLASTING

William E. "Bill" Bridges, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired) on the 26th of December 2014. At this posting no other information is available. Please keep LTC Bill and his family in your prayers.

FOR RELEASE ON 28 NOVEMBER:

25 NOVEMBER 2014

The Rice Area Chamber of Commerce presented a check for more than four hundred dollars to the Rice Post of the American Legion to pay for one year of electricity for the Rice Memorial Monument that honors veterans and those citizens who supported our military men and women. The monument is lighted during times of darkness.

Chamber President Brian LaVerdiere and Treasurer Cheryl Scapanski to Floyd Hinkemeyer, the Legion First Vice Commander at the chamber meeting presented the check.



S.A.L UPDATE

Jim Hovda – Adjutant

On the 8th of December, SAL members met with the legion and enjoyed the prime rib dinner prepared by Mark Larson of Creative Catering. SAL Chaplain Emil said grace for the meal.

WARRIORS COLUMN

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

This article is all about a currently serving soldier and post member, Sergeant David Redfield. Sgt. Dave first became acquainted with our legion post as a member of our color guard doing bugle and drum duties. Dave told me that he was impressed with the ethics of military folks and joined the MN Army National Guard on 30 April 2009.

He completed his basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC and then learned specialty welding, cutting & fabricating graduating at the top of his class earning his first Army Achievement Medal.

After completing all his training Sgt. Dave has served in several units with the MN Army National Guard, (Red Bull) Division and a variety of duty assignments. Can you believe that welding did not come in first place. Yes, the army has not changed.

Redfield was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in September last year and is assigned to the Recovery Section for Co D., 134th BSB out of Duluth, MN for the 1-94 Cav. as a section Leader.

Along with being in the Guard, he is employed as a Dual Status Federal Technician, meaning he must be a soldier in the Guard to retain his job. He works in the Combined Maintenance Activity-North facility. He works with vehicles ranging in size from Humvee to M1 Abraham Tanks.

Sergeant Redfield's awards and decorations include Army Achievement Medal w/1OLC, National Defense Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Global War on Terror and the State Active Duty. A good Conduct Medal will soon be awarded.

Sgt. Dave remains a member of our Legion Post and serves with our color guard. From a seventeen year-old drummer to Sergeant in the army! What a journey and it all started with his participation with our Rice American Legion.

Thanks for serving, and God Bless.

COLOR GUARD COLUMN

Jim Hovda

So far, knock on wood, no call ups for wakes of funerals in December. That said, the next coming event will be our annual training and dinner event on Sunday 15 February 2015. I'll be putting out more info about the event in the February NL. That said, we could use additional members. This is a good opportunity to join and learn how we do things. And, get a nice dinner to boot.

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

Don Miklos

Comrades,

Having just celebrated Christmas, I was sitting quietly one evening looking back at the things we have done, soul searching I guess. The good times with the children and grandchildren, the Christmas party, visiting friends, sharing good food and stories, all good and wonderful things bearing good memories. But there was a nagging thought. Had I missed something, something of great importance?

And then it clicked. Before Christmas Mary of us celebrated Advent, which is a time four weeks before Christmas. Actually it is time of preparation for a coming or arrival, in this case, the birthday of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The most important arrival ever! The practice is very ancient, dating back to Gaul and Spain in the fourth century. But it was the Romans who gave us the four weeks version at about the fifth century.

I cannot emphasize the importance of Advent nearly enough. Scripture makes mention of it often, Isaiah 40:1-5 and 9-11 a voice cries out, "In the desert, prepare the way of the Lord." And again, in the Gospel of Mark 1:1-8 Isaiah says he is sending a messenger, John the Baptist, who says, "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." They were not talking about giant earthmovers flattening a ten-mile stretch of I-94! Absolutely not! No, I meant for us to "get our house in order". Bear no ill feelings in your heart towards your brothers, nor even your neighbor. Forgive not only the large issues against you, but also even the smallest of things, which can come between your God and you.

This is the true meaning of Advent, preparing a clean and loving heart for our Lord when he comes. Then we can focus more closely on the commutation of his birth at Bethlehem, and we can say, "My Lord and my God forgive me as I forgive those who have grieved me." If we care do this, then we shall know that we have truly made straight the pathway of our Lord into our hearts.

May our God always smile kindly upon you my brothers and sisters.

Your Chaplain, Don Miklos

THE FISHING STRINGER

Here we are again. Where did the time go! Christmas snuck up on everybody again, especially me. I've not heard anything about pan fishing except from Fred Segler. Everyone else is out spearing in Mille Lacs. Bob Holthaus had a crew at "Winnie" and according to my spies, did well spearing northern pike.

I received info from Mark Soderholm that should serve as a **WARNING about ice conditions on Little Rock Lake. And, I would suspect, most area lakes.** The water from recent rain and warm weather has caused a lot of water to form on top of the ice. This water is draining into holes cut in the ice by anglers. These holes in many cases have gotten quite large. **The large holes and the large areas of open water by Hwy #10 and creeks also pose a serious DANGER.** Please be careful...

Bob Kerestes landed a 27-inch NP on a hook and line. The only hook and line entered. The biggest speared NP was, a 42-inch fish was caught by Jeremy Thene. My granddaughter Kayla came up from Mankato last week. Dale took her to Mille Lacs for her first time spearing. She nailed a 37 and 29-inch fish. She was impressed and is looking forward to doing more spearing.

I want to wish everyone MERRY CHRISTMAS and a safe and healthy new year. I'd like to know how big the pan fish Fred caught, were ... GOD BLESS!

Darlene Hiscock
"AKA" Ms. Tackle Box.

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.**

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 \$500.00. 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.

FROM THE CLUB

Cheryl Bovy

The holidays have come and gone already. Hope everyone has a very very Happy New Year. December was good to us here at the legion. We had the annual Legion Christmas party with Mark Larson and his crew serving a delicious prime rib dinner.

January at the legion is going to be busy. We have a couple parties we are hosting and on January 31st we are having a dart tourney along with Shadys. Should be a great time.

Don't forget bingo the jackpot is \$1199 so come and try to win that great little gift. Also our key for cash is at \$500. That is Saturday night starting at 8pm. Meat raffle begins approximately at 7:30. Great packages of meat with chances, only \$1.

If you would like to have a party here at the legion just call me at the club. It's free of charge.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Janice Martin

Welcome to a New Year ladies!

I hope this letter finds all of you in good health and excited for the 2015 New Year!

The past year had been filled with lots of challenges for us. Lots of good volunteer work done by all for the good of all our veterans and children. This past year we had the opportunity to help a child out whose mother is in hospice and not expected to survive her cancer. We were so honored to help this little guy out with toys and mom was able to enjoy his excitement when he opened his gifts. This is what we are all about...bringing joy and relief and help to our children and Veterans. This child's mother is a National Guard reservist. How appropriate for us to help out in any way we can!

The month of December was also the wreath laying at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls. It was held on the 13th of December. It was a very foggy and overcast day but a very moving and beautiful ceremony.

We had a very nice Christmas Party at the Legion December 8th. The dinner was catered by Mark Larson of the Creamery with delicious prime rib and chicken. Thank you Mark for a wonderful dinner! Preceding the dinner and party was our last monthly meeting for 2014. We paid some district bills and received a nice sum of money for our work at the "Widow's Weekend" which will go towards our veterans and children programs. Thank you to Pat Fuchs for all your hard organizing this event each year!

Our Auxiliary dinner for January will be the 13th from 5-7 pm. We will be serving pork roast, baby reds, salads, and desserts, coffee and milk. Our servers will be Sharon Kiley, Peg Seviola, and Cheryl Bovy. \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids 10 and under. Take-outs available.

We are gearing up for our Valentines for Vets again this year. This is a day we spend making crafty items for our Veterans in the VA in St. Cloud and at home, active and retired. We will be meeting at the Watab Township Hall on January 17th at 9:00 am until around 3:30 pm. anyone who has a little or a lot of time is welcome to come and help out! There will be a lunch provided along with coffee and pop.

Our next auxiliary meeting will be at the Legion club the same time and place that the guys meet. Meeting will be January 12th at 7:00 pm.

Janice Martin

2014 Wreath Laying at Little Falls



One of our past Auxiliary members from this year



JANUARY 2015 LEGION CALENDAR

01 New Year's Day. Club closed. (Fly Flag)

03 Keys for Cash & meat raffle 8:00 P.M.

07 BINGO, 7:00 P.M.

08 Operation Cedar Falls, Vietnam begins. (1967)

10 Keys for cash & meat raffle 8:00 P.M.

12 Leg CC, BOD & Leg, SAL & Aux - Membership meetings. See below.

13 Auxiliary dinner. 5 – 7:00 P.M. at the post, Pork Roast, small potatoes

14 BINGO, 7:00 P.M.

17 Keys for cash & meat raffle 8:00 P.M.

17 Operation Desert Storm begins. (1991)

19 Martin Luther King Day. (Fly Flag)

21 BINGO, 7:00 P.M.

21 Birth of the modern National Guard. (1903)

24 Keys for cash & meat raffle 8:00 P.M.

25 Ardennes Alsace Campaign (Battle of the Bulge) ends. (1945)

28 BINGO, 7:00 P.M.

28 Vietnam Cease-Fire Campaign ends. (1973)

30 Tet Offensive begins in South Vietnam. (1968)

31 Keys for cash & meat raffle 8:00 P.M.

31 BINGO, 7:00 P.M.

31 Operation Just Cause (Panama) ends. (1990)

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, SAL & Auxiliary meeting 7:00 P.M. at the Legion Post. SAL members meet w/Leg.

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
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MEMBERSHIP

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CHAPLAINS

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COLOR GUARD

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POST

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