

# Commander's Corner

Greetings Comrades,

They say springtime rejuvenates the body and soul. Well, this year spring has certainly done that! COVID19 vaccinations are rolling out, and Dane County Public Health restrictions have been eased up so that our Lounge is now open! Please watch your emails, Post Notes, and Facebook page for any updates regarding Lounge hours and safety protocols.

Gratitude to Sharon Scallon and Denny Haugen for donating Post Notes and snow plowing fees, respectively, while the lounge was closed due to COVID. We have also received financial support from many individuals, both Post and Community members, to help offset our operating expenses. On behalf of the Executive Board, and all of our membership, I extend my deepest appreciation! We will continue to monitor our expenses, as well as host some events, to bring our bank balance up so we can continue to support our Veteran programs as well as community events. We ask for your continued assistance! As you are comfortable, please consider volunteering for an event or two. Not only do we always need an extra pair of hands, we would love to actually get to know more of our Legion Family!

Speaking of events, as I type this, we make final preparations for our Spring Raffle Drawing. Appreciation to all who bought and sold tickets, donated prizes, and helped with the drawing. We are hoping to do another this year, so if you didn't get a ticket this time, watch the Post Notes for more information. Good luck to all! Next, after the great success of our first Rib Fest, we decided to run with it again. Mark your calendar for April 17<sup>th</sup>, serving 11 AM – 4 PM or until sold out. Volunteers needed and appreciated! Watch Facebook for more details. Email me at [tkd82arty@netscape.net](mailto:tkd82arty@netscape.net) to offer up some time. This event will be made much simpler due in part to the fabulous gift we received last fall from Andy, Gaylene, and Kirk Otteson, in remembrance of their daughter and sister, Kristi. As many of you are aware, the Legion and McFarland Lions Club received a donation of a beautiful grill on wheels, capable of cooking 120 pounds of chicken at one time! We will dedicate and "break in" this beautiful gift sometime before the Rib Fest, watch Facebook for details. Otteson Family, we are forever grateful for this generous gift!

As previously mentioned, it's almost time for nominations for Post Officers. Open positions include: Commander, Finance, Chaplain, Sgt at Arms, and possibly other positions. (Of course ALL positions are open for nominations.) Nominations will be received at the May and June meetings via in person appearance or through Zoom. Elections will be held via the same format in June. (Zoom voting details to be announced.) Please consider stepping up in a leadership role. You will have a wealth of experience helping and standing with you.

My thoughts remain with those who are grieving and ill. Please remember our fallen and support our Troops. Easter blessings to all!

Tom Downs  
Commander

## From the Chaplain

Happy Easter! Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after His crucifixion, the most important celebration of the year. You are not a mistake. You are not here by accident. You have a purpose. Having trouble figuring out what that is? Keep trying something new. Never give up. Keep the devil mad by enjoying whatever you are doing. Jesus will help you through the hard times. You have a bright future. Who will volunteer to be the next Chaplain?

When you are planning/writing your will, or if a loved one dies, please remember American Legion Post 534. Your memorial gift is a beautiful way to help out, no matter how small or large a gift. For tax

purposes, we are a 501C19 organization.

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. God has a great future in store for you. Dream BIG and put actions behind them. Start your day with God.

Free anonymous counseling: Text 741-741 or call 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1) Veterans Crises hot line.

Thank you for your service!

Remember: Jesus will never reject you.

God bless you and God bless America!

Chaplain Dale 608-395-5942

Email: [am534chaplain@gmail.com](mailto:am534chaplain@gmail.com)

PS: Remember to say: I am sorry – I love you – Please – Thank you – I am proud of you – I will volunteer – Help me.

Challenge: Do what you're afraid to do. Do not be afraid to fail.

## Membership Report

In the last month we have had 2 renewals and 4 new members. We currently have 253 paid members which leaves us 61 members short of the goal established for us by National. We now are at 83% of last year's membership. For those of you who have not yet renewed, please do so ASAP. Membership dues are still \$35/yr. You can renew online or by mailing your renewal to the Post. To renew online go to <https://www.legion.org/membershipmanagement> and then click on the link "Renew Membership Online". It's quick and simple.

Our new members are:

- Nicholas Krey; War on Terror; US Army
- Robert Pominville; Persian Gulf; US Navy
- Eugene Sawyer; Korea; US Air Force

All came to us from the Portage HQ Post.

- George Bernhagen; Korea; US Army

Mr. Bernhagen is a 30 year PUFL who comes to us from the Lone Rock Post where he served as Post Commander, Post Adjutant and County Commander.

Welcome to Post 534. Our membership meetings are held at 7 pm on the second Thursday of each month. Would love to see you there.

If you know anyone eligible to join the American Legion, Auxiliary or SAL please encourage them to join or give the lead to me and I'll follow up. You can contact me at (608) 478-1937 or [jwick16060@tds.net](mailto:jwick16060@tds.net). Now that the Post is open, membership should be more attractive. Any new memberships and renewals apply to 2021.

Jim Wickert

First Vice Commander

## Auxiliary News

The thaw has begun. There only a few piles of snow lingering around. The rain will wash away all the dirt winter hides under all that snow. The birds are back singing and soon we'll be replacing our snow shovels with lawnmowers. *Personally, I cannot wait!*

Like in most areas of government, spring brings elections. This is election year for all officers' positions in our Unit. All positions have a two year term. We will be taking nominations during the April and May meetings. The slate of candidates will be announced in May's Post Notes. Voting will take place at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and installation of the 2021-2023 Officers will take place Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have any interest in representing your Unit or have questions about duties for each position, please let me know and I will provide you the information.

Memorial Day is right around the corner. We are looking for volunteers to be a part of the committee for the **Brats & Dog Sale**. We would love to see an Auxiliary Colorguard unit marching in the Memorial Day Parade. If you are interested, please let me know.

Please prepare your list of volunteer hours. It will be reporting season as well. You can count each funeral luncheon you worked, baby diaper bag, Veterans and Homeless bags assembly, Community service for Stuff the Bus, Halloween treat bag, and Senior Outreach.

I hope to see everyone at our next meeting on **April 2, 2019 @ 6:30 pm.**

Jodie Armstrong

President Auxiliary 534

### ***The Stephen A. Foye Memorial Scholarship-2021 Applications are ready!***

McFarland High School 2021 graduating seniors must use the McFarland High School application form available from MHS Guidance. Applications **MUST** be submitted through the MHS Guidance office. Any MHS Applications dropped or mailed to the Post will be disqualified.

**Submission deadline: April 1, 2021**

If you are a Post 534 Legionnaire, Auxiliary, and SAL member in good standing and or a family member (child, stepchild, grandchild, and step-grandchild) of a current Post 534 member, you will need to complete the:

**"Affiliate" Application form.**

It is especially important to include the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL member information (name, organization, membership number, address, and phone number). All "affiliation" information will be verified.

Hardcopy applications are available at Legion. An electronic copy will be available by calling or texting me at 608-332-3688.

**Submission deadline: May 1, 2021.**

If you have questions, please contact:

Jodie Armstrong, Scholarship Chairperson 608-332-3688

## S.A.L. Corner

Hello Sons,

Hope this Message finds you all well.

As some of you know, the Legion opened up for business on Tuesday, March 16 of 2021. Please come down and support your local Legion.

Stay tuned and keep your ear to the ground as we will be bringing back the meat raffles and other events that the Sons of American Legion host. Remember we are always looking for volunteers to help out with our events.

This month is a great month to practice leadership and personal growth. Wake up every day and try to be a better person than you were the day before.

The summer months will soon upon us and we should always be attentive to others and their needs. This month let's try to do good deeds for one another and help out our fellow man or woman.

Be great!

SAL commander  
Joe Larson

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Members and Friends**

Legion, SAL, Auxiliary to work each other's events.

- 8 to work meat raffles. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
- 2 to work on buildings and grounds to keep the post in pristine condition. You do not have to do all the work, you'll need to coordinate. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
- 2 to keep the hill weed free and bushes trimmed. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
- 1 (on call) to help set up chairs and tables for funerals. Contact Russ Jenkins 608-333-5787
- 8 Legion members needed to join the Color Guard (uniforms provided). Contact Jodie Armstrong 608-332-3688
- 6 (2 from each organization) to recruit new members. Contact Jim Wickert 608-228-3834
- 4 Veterans to join the Madison Veterans Firing Squad for Veterans' funerals (when you are available). Uniforms are provided. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
- 4 to help coordinate events. Contact Nate Weier 608-381-0800

### **Results of Food Drive for McFarland Food Pantry**

97 people dropped off items

Approximately \$3,100 (2,000 lbs) was raised

20 volunteers donated time

1 new Auxiliary member signed up at the event

### **Lounge Corner –**

Happy to announce that we opened March 16. We are following CDC guidelines – masks are required.

Temporary Hours:

Tuesday – Friday 2 pm 7 pm

Saturday – 3 pm – 7 pm

Closed Sunday and Monday

We're looking forward to seeing everyone again!

Lounge Manager, Sue Wipperfurth

## **Calendar of Events...**

### **April**

April 6 – Auxiliary Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm

April 7 – SAL Zoom Meeting, 6 pm

April 8 – Legion Zoom Meeting, 7 pm

April 17 – Rib Fest, 11 am – 4 pm

### **May**

May 4 – Auxiliary Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm

May 5 – SAL Zoom Meeting, 6 pm

May 13 – Legion Zoom Meeting, 7 pm

May 31 – Memorial Day

May 30 & 31 – Auxiliary Brat Sale

*Happy Easter*