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GREENDALE AMERICAN LEGION POST 416 NEWSLETTER

GREENDALE AMERICAN LEGION POST 416 - AUXILIARY - SAL NEWSLETTER

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Post Officers 2023-2024

Commander	Terry Barrington
Adjutant	Tim Bellis
Assistant Adjutant	Dave Pier
Finance Officer	Leo Taylor
1st Vice Commander	Dave Pier
2nd Vice Commander	Gary Parker
3rd Vice Commander	Ed King
4th Vice Commander	Tim Baranzyk
Chaplain (Deacon)	Ted Gurzynski
Service Officer	Bob Zolandz
Judge Advocate	Stan Pinkowski
Sgt. At Arms	Lyle Jackson
Sgt. At Arms	Jerry White
Historian	Tim Baranzyk
Captain Honor Guard	Bob Zolandz
1st Lt. Honor Guard	Bob Vanselow
2nd Lt. Honor Guard	Ed King

Meetings

Exe. Board Mtg.
1st Tuesday
7:00 PM

Honor Guard Mtg.
2nd Thursday
Jan, Mar, May,
June, Sept, Nov
7:00 PM

General Post Mtg.
3rd Thursday
7:00 PM

Auxiliary Officers 2023-2024

President	Kathy Baranzyk
1st Vice President	Carol Stephany
2nd Vice President	Jackie Tamset
Secretary	Laura Calteux
Treasurer	Laura Calteux
Chaplain	Carrie Kleppin
Historian	Laura Calteux
Sgt. At Arms	Florence Groth
Asst. Sgt. At Arms	Pat Kadlec

Auxiliary
3rd Thursday
7:00 PM

Sal Officers 2023-2024

President	Tim Baranzyk
Adjutant	Terry Barrington

Sal 7:00 PM
2nd Monday

05/21/23
BZ

FEBRUARY

- 4th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard, 6:00pm**
- 6th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard, 9:45am**
Executive Board Meeting 7:00p
- 7th Vietnam Vets Chapter 1 Meeting 6:30pm**
- 11th Bingo in Memorial Hall, 40/8, 6:00pm**
- 12th SAL Meeting 7:00pm**
- 13th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard, 9:45am**
- 15TH Post & Auxiliary Membership Meeting 7:00pm**
- 18th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Post, 6:00pm**
- 20th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard, 9:45am**
- 21st 4th District Meeting hosted by Post 400 @ Post 416 Greendale**
- 25th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Post 6:00pm**
- 26th VFW Meeting 6:30pm**
- 27th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard 9:45am**
40/8 Meeting 7:00pm

MARCH

- 3rd Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard, 6:00pm**
- 5th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard, 9:45am**
Post Executive Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 6th Vietnam Vets Chapter 1 Meeting 6:30pm**
- 10th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Post, 6:00pm**
- 11th SAL Meeting 7:00pm**
- 12th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard, 9:45am**
- 14th Honor Guard Meeting 7:00pm**
- 17th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Post, 6:00pm**
- 19th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard 9:45am**
- 20th 4th District Meeting 7:00pm**
- 21st Post & Auxiliary Membership Meeting 7:00pm**
- 24th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Post, 6:00pm**
- 25th VFW Meeting 6:30pm**
- 26th Bingo in Memorial Hall, Honor Guard, 9:45am**
40/8 Meeting 7:00pm
- 31st Bingo in Memorial Hall, Post, 6:00pm**

AMERICAN LEGION

COMMANDERS REPORT

Hello Greendale Post 416 family!

I first want to say this past month has been very busy. On January 19-21 I was able to attend midwinter in Lacrosse Wisconsin. It was a great training opportunity and great to see our fellow legionnaires from across the state. I attended the Post Adjutant course and honestly learned a lot that will help us going forward. I also had the opportunity to speak to our Department Leadership on current topics.

One topic I want to keep you posted on is the Pact Act and the issue with Plus Act. Here is the latest from National Executive Committee

NEC clarifies, reaffirms Legion support for GUARD Act

The American Legion

DEC 12, 2023

The American Legion National Executive Committee passed a new resolution reiterating its support for penalizing unaccredited companies that charge veterans for benefits claims

assistance during a special meeting on December 12th.

Prior to the NEC vote, American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Autrey James explained what's at stake.

"Right now, there are more than 100 unaccredited claims companies "illegally profiting millions of dollars from veterans under the guise of legitimate professionals. Some veterans are being taken advantage of while others are content to pay the exorbitant fees," he said.

These companies charge veterans for assistance with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits claims that The American Legion provides at no cost to any veteran.

Resolution 1 calls on Congress to:

- Pass legislation that restores criminal penalties for people or companies violating VA rules regarding representing or charging veterans fees to file, prepare or prosecute initial VA claims without VA accreditation.
- Oppose legislation that would allow unaccredited parties to become legal representatives without completing the accreditation process.

There are two bills pending in Congress related to the issue, the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act and the PLUS

(Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans) Act.

The American Legion supports the GUARD Act. The legislation would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a VA disability claim.

Conversely, the PLUS Act would force VA to recognize applicants for accreditation automatically after 90 days, even if they fail to meet VA standards. This legislation also calls for a fee cap of \$12,500 to be paid by the veteran.

“Our national commander made it clear that we oppose the PLUS Act — in September when a letter of opposition was sent to Congress, in October during his visits on Capitol Hill, and again last month in his published Commander’s Message,” James said.

After the vote, American Legion National Commander Dan Seehafer said, “Our agenda was short today but very important. Our position is now crystal clear to all unaccredited firms wishing to exploit veterans, and that is, not on our watch!”

With the current congressional term concluding soon, it is likely the legislation will be a focal point for the next session.

“Your work today will only strengthen our testimony that I deliver to Congress in March,” said Seehafer, concluding his remarks.

Please note I am doing all I can to get the current info to you asap.

Terry Barrington



1st VICE COMMANDER

As of 1/19/24 we are at 401 paid memberships out of 606, Remember if you need help in paying your dues, please let us know. If anyone knows of any member who passed away, please let us know, there are times that we are no informed for a year or longer that a member has passed away. If you move, let us know, we get newsletters back as unable to deliver due to moving and not having an address to forward the newsletter to.

Dave Pier

2nd VICE COMMANDER

I do not have much to say at this time of the year relative to my 2nd Vice position.

Although there are a number of social events we are previewing, they will be in the spring with no chance of snow or cold weather interference. Currently, the first major event will be the June Installation of Officers, but any pertinent information with this event, as with all events, will be in your newsletter.

As always, if you have any ideas, etc. for future events please feel free to contact me. Thank You

Gary Parker

3rd VICE COMMANDER

There were no presentations for the past month to report on. There are several requests for presentations in the works, we are just coordinating to schedule dates and time.

Americanism as stated in an earlier message has its foundation in our Constitution and is exemplified by American citizens. I find it encouraging to see examples of Americanism in our History, Our Leaders and everyday lives of everyday people.

I recently observed everyday people committed to service as I participated on an

Honor Flight. Seeing volunteers who put in innumerable hours to ensure a positive experience for veterans, Post members that volunteer, and those who are part of the welcome home is appreciated. A particularly touching moment was seeing children who were probably 7 yrs. old playing "God Bless America" on their violins. That moment tells a larger story. Those children are our future. Their parents, family members and teachers are preparing those children to be responsible, involved, and compassionate American citizens. Thank you for doing your part to strengthen Americanism with those you have influence with.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are" Theodore Roosevelt

Aim High
That Others May Live

Ed King

4TH VICE COMMANDER

This year's Oratorical Contest was a wash. No one stepped up to participate. Not a happy camper. Regardless of how much input you attempt with schools and staff, something is missing. After retiring as a Special Ed Teacher and a Diagnostic Teacher, I get chills within my system as to what is going on in these schools.

Now we approach County Youth Government Day, and I see the same thing going on. All some of these students need to do us log into a website, take a short test of knowledge, and possibly win some scholarships. Not many students compete. We've had winners before, but it seems that these subjects of history and government are always left alone. As possible new voters they lack the knowledge to vote for candidates who know what is going on. Then you hear complaints that no one is listening!

Number 3 is Badger Boys State, which takes place the weekend after schools get out for the summer. This is up in Eau Claire from June 9- 15. We sponsor several students, but we'll see who wants to go. We have a video link of the whole week if anyone is interested. I'll get the link onto the Post website for a connection.

Elections are coming. I fear many students have no idea as to any candidates' qualifications, just word of mouth. I'm very leery of the future with leadership at all levels not knowing what is going on, and their lack of preparation for it. This is not a learning on the job.

Until next time, stay safe, watch the news, and stay up to date on future developments.

Tim Baranzyk

HISTORIAN

Every year we try to submit a book of Post Activities. I need your input with pictures and what the event is, plus who is in the pictures. If this is not done, no book is submitted. We have a few months to go. And another year will be history!

Please get involved!

Tim Baranzyk

HONOR GUARD

Your devotion to our commitment was truly shown on the Friday PM 1/19/24 cold day and long ride and a long wait to honor one of our vets who served our country with honor. The number was great along with the sincere presentation, along with good firing.

When I say Proud to serve as your captain, this is what motivates me to make this statement. Thanks again.

As you know the first Sunday is Honor Guard Bingo Night. A new mechanism has been installed which enhances the playing. I know that there has been some reservation in calling back the numbers. Each card has a number, and that number is in the computer. Very simple when bingo is called, pick up the sheet call back the one number on the wining sheet. Mission accomplished. Hope this will motivate more

help on the floor. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

We have a couple of snowbirds this month and along with some medical issues. That being said, this next month will be challenging, but as always, we will get the job accomplished.

Thanks again and Proud to serve as your Captain.

Bob Zolandz

PAST POST COMMANDER

Times are changing every day as we speak. As a side note: Make sure every one of you pay attention to your surroundings as you go out and about. Don't become a statistic!

Elections of all sorts are coming up. Question the candidates who are running, regardless of what contest you're involved in. If you vote because of other people's views that influence you, would you call this a democracy? Study history. It's starting to repeat itself.

Tim Baranzyk

HOMELESS VETERAN TASK FORCE

The Post and a lot of anonymous donors participated in many activities behind the scenes. My THANKS TO ALL OF YOU! We've been very busy.

Supplies went out to those in Tenn. Who lost their homes, etc. because of tornadoes; hygiene items to veterans in Union Grove; donations of over \$200 for Toys for Tots of needy families; a few wheelchairs and walkers; donations to a new Thrift Store in Union Grove called Ground Zero which caters to veterans; information on funeral preparations concerning uniforms; use of the 211 phone exchange; rent assistance with the Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office. If you contact me for assistance. leave a message as I screen ALL CALLS, many of them bogus. Just for your knowledge, any vet who needs some sort of assistance after going through the 211 exchange, then the next step is clarifying with the CVSO, are they a veteran? Several are bogus. I've had calls from everywhere!

Take Care,

Tim Baranzyk, Homeless Task Force
Chairman, Dept of Wisconsin

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

I want to thank everyone for their well wishes and prayers. The surgery went well, and my recovery is improving every day. I started my rehab and it's going well.

Well, it's that time of year again, mark your calendars for April 27th for our annual Spaghetti Dinner. Get out your favorite dessert to make for our fundraiser.

George Washington's Luncheon is February 19th at Meyers Family Restaurant, 4260 S. 76th Street. Social hour 11am, Opening Ceremonies 11:45am with lunch at noon. If you're interested in attending call me at 414-628-0360 before February 10th.

Our next Executive Board Meeting is February 8th at 6:30pm. Our next Membership Meeting is February 15th at 7pm, see everyone then.

Sincerely, Kathy Baranzyk

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Auxiliary Membership

Your membership matters greatly, and your dues make a significant impact on those we serve. We are a community of volunteers dedicated to enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and families.

We cannot fulfill our mission without you!

The above words were taken from the 2024 Membership Renewal Notice sent to all current members. Please renew by phone to ALA National Headquarters at 317-569-4570 or return your renewal notice to me soon.

Thank you to the 95 members who have renewed for 2024 and welcome to the members who have transferred to #416 from other Units. I encourage all members to attend our meetings if able. Help us plan for a productive 2024.

Carol Stephany

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

If you want to put an article in the next newsletter, please email to:

lauracalteux@yahoo.com

Deadline February 18th, 2024

SAL COMMANDER

As of this writing, the SAL has operated the kitchen 3 times for Sunday bingo. We can always use extra help.

I'm looking at other events to generate money for the SAL. Some events include growing food with Shangri-la in New Berlin; we have 3 honor flights coming up where letters might be written; other activities include the use of drones, underwater exploration, working with America Climate Corps; NASA- Hydroponics and aquaponics; conservation; setting up a kitchen to help assist some homeless vets with meals. Seeing if any help might be needed with the new Community Veteran Project of Tiny Houses, going up, assisting the Post if needed.

If people are interested drop me a line.

Tim Baranzky, SAL Commander 416.