

Post Notes

May, 2017



Commander.....	Bob O'Donnell	Service Officer.....	Russ Jenkins
First Vice.....	Bill Bley	Chaplain.....	Dale Sankey
Second Vice.....	Kathy Durant	Historian.....	Rob Blanchar
Adjutant.....	Russ Reppen	Sgt. at Arms.....	Darrell Krenz
Finance.....	Jodie Armstrong		Mike Verdico
Web Site.....	www.alp534.org	Post Phone Number.....	(608) 838-3249

Commander's Corner



As of April 1, 2017, we have a new bar/lounge manager, Karen Larson. She volunteered to manage the facility for the Legion Family. She has updated bar offerings and has added several new bartenders to make your visit more enjoyable.

Linda Kuhn,
Bonnie Jenkins and Dale

Sankey attended the 2017 Dane County Government Day on Wednesday, April 5th. Six McFarland High School students and one instructor attended. This group represented our community very well at this annual event.

Volunteers needed! Mark your calendar for **Post 534 cleanup on Saturday, May 6, 2017** from 09:00 – 12:00 hours. The Legion Baseball team will also participate in this activity.

May 5th's monthly meeting is a very important event for Post 534 as we nominate members to run for 2018 post offices. Our post needs your input and guidance for the upcoming year. I encourage you to nominate yourself or someone you feel would provide leadership to our post. Critical dates for our post and planning for

2018 include:

- May 5th nominate members for 2018 offices.
- June 2nd vote for the candidates running for office (we still accept nominations this day).
- Friday, June 23rd installation of officers.

I encourage each member to consider running for an officer position or nominate someone you feel would donate their time and talent to provide guidance for Post 534. I've truly enjoyed being your commander and hope you will consider joining our leadership group.

On Monday, May 29th, **Memorial Day**, please join in and help us make this a day of honor! We need people for our rifle team – Legion cap, white shirt, black slacks and black shoes!

- **06:00 hours Flags Up** - we need help to run up 106 flags.
- **08:00 hours Cemeteries and Legion Park**- flags go up
- **12:00 hours Memorial Day Parade** – starts at Christ The King and ends at the Legion
- **13:00 hours Memorial Day Program** commences
- **17:00 hours Flags Down** – we need help to take down and fold 106 flags.

Commander Bob

From the Chaplain



May 14 is Mother's Day. Cards and flowers are nice. Phone calls are better. Spending TIME is the best. Don't forget the mother of your children. May 20 is Armed Forces Day; please fly your flag.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS: Please join us at the post on May

29, Memorial Day. Bring a friend or neighbor. We want to set a record for all time attendance.

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

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.
Thank you for your service.

Chaplain Dale
608-395-5942

PS. The people in your life will never be perfect. Give them room to have a bad day. Don't comment on every bad thing. Keep the peace, be a better person.

Membership

As of the middle of April, American Legion Post 534 had 316 paid members. That number includes 14 new members for 2017. That's good! But 316 members is only 95% of our 2017 goal of 329.



member of our post, encourage that person to join.

For seven decades, Post 534 has provided support to military families, veterans and others in need of help right here in our local community. Legion youth activity and scholarship programs provide benefits that will keep on giving for years to come.

If you have any questions regarding membership or recruiting, please call me at 608-579-1517 or email: wrbley48@yahoo.com

Bill Bley, First Vice,
Membership Chairman

Auxiliary News



Happy Spring everyone. By the time you come to the next meeting our Post will be all spruced up. On May 6th the Legion family members along with the American Legion Baseball team will have completed the annual spring cleaning. Thanks to everyone who lent a

hand.

This **is election year** for our Unit. Please consider helping and assisting your Unit by taking an active role and becoming a part of the Unit leadership. Nominations will begin at our next meeting and will remain open until the June meeting. Voting will take place at the June meeting. All positions are open if you are interested, however, the incumbent is not running for the following positions: 1st Vice, Chaplain, and Sergeant of Arms (2 positions).

Soup-Sandwich & Games (B – N - O) will be held on April 23rd. Instead of our traditional Soup and Sandwich, we will be kicking off the spring season with a delicious picnic luncheon consisting of grilled brats and hot dogs with potato salad.

May is Poppy distribution month. We need volunteers; any and all Legion Family members are welcome to help distribute Poppies on Sat or Sun

and locations on the Auxiliary bulletin board. The funds collected from the Poppies benefit disabled veterans.

Memorial Day the Auxiliary will be having their annual Brat and Hot Dog sale. We could use a few extra hands. Please contact me if you have a few hours to spare. My cell is 332-3688.

The April 2nd breakfast was a huge success! We doubled the amount of diners this month. Awesome job and a big thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success. The proceeds from our breakfast and brat sales benefit the veterans at the VA hospital, local families, and the McFarland Food Pantry. I hereby give notice that in every newsletter article I write, I am soliciting volunteers to lend a hand. In order for our Unit and Post to be able to continue providing support to the VA hospital, homeless veterans, local needy families and local charities, we need more members to volunteer! Just a few hours a month makes a world of difference. We understand everyone has busy lives. Maybe we all can turn off the TV for a couple hours and serve breakfast, or sell brats, clean the post, drive a Legion Family member to a doctor's appointment. **The average Legion Family volunteer's age is between 60-65 plus or minus.** It is a fact of life that our volunteers have or will have more health challenges. We need the help of our members to help keep this Auxiliary Unit and Post functioning. Please hear our plea and lend a hand.

Please mark your calendar with the upcoming Auxiliary events:

May 7th Senior Salute Social

May 13th SAL Spaghetti dinner

Our next meeting is on May 2, 2017. Happy Spring!

Jodie Armstrong, President
(608-332-3688)

Please have your June articles to me by Wednesday, May 17.
Thanks, Sharon Scallon, editor



Sick Call – Prayer List

Dennis Dancker, Roger Segebrecht, John Guler, John Lynch, Leo Endres, Karl Scheutz, Gary Venden, William Peters, Don Haugen, Dick Becker, Mackenzie Schoeller (Bob & Sue Hargraves granddaughter), Dale Everett, Carlos Jenkins, Virgil Houff, Ellyn Thompson, Kathy Popp and Carl Schuetz

Please notify the following Legion members for sympathy or get well cards:

Legion Chaplain – Dale Sankey (608-395-5942)

Auxiliary Chaplain – Ellyn Thompson (608-838-3395)

S.A.L. Chaplain – David Sawyer (608-444-3768)

Sunshine Person – Sue Wipperfurth (608-535-0495)

S.A.L. Corner

Hello S.A.L. Members,

You are doing a great job keeping up with membership dues. Thanks guys!

We need some new input from you to help us moving forward with our upcoming meal events. The spaghetti dinner is in May and Swiss steak in October. Please volunteer for both of these dinners if you're able. Call Dave Sawyer (444-3768) or Don Egner (577-8497) for more info.

Our spaghetti dinner is Saturday, May 13, from 4-8 p.m. \$9.00 for adults and \$4.50 for children. The dinner includes spaghetti and homemade meatballs, garlic bread, dessert and coffee or milk.

Please remember coming up on May 3 at 6:30 sharp is the first nomination of new officers. You will be able to nominate again the first Wednesday in June at the beginning of the meeting. At the end of the meeting, everyone votes. The adjutant will be appointed by the Commander. Let's be there to vote!

Don Egner and Dave Sawyer

Memorial Day

Wow – It's May already! And just around the corner is Memorial Day! With that comes an activity filled day here at American Legion Post 534. The members of American Legion Post 534 of McFarland sponsor our annual Memorial Day Parade here in McFarland. Memorial Day falls on May 29th this year. The parade will begin at Noon. The parade route starts at Christ the King Church and ends at the American Legion Post 534. This will be followed by our Memorial Service at the American Legion 534, 4911 Burma Rd, at 1:00 p.m. Just a reminder: The bar will be closed during this service.

Our Post 534 also provides the Firing Squad for the flag raising at the cemeteries in McFarland that morning. Thank you to those who have volunteered. If you have any questions or concerns, please give a call to Jodie Armstrong at 838-3745. The dress uniform for that morning is: white shirt . . . black slacks . . . black shoes and your garrison cap.

We are currently making arrangements for the parade line up. There's still plenty of room for your entry! Invitations can be found at Post 534 – just stop by and pick one up, fill it out and drop it in the mail slot for Kathy Durant, 2nd Vice Commander, behind the bar. Or just give Kathy a call at 669-2604.

I am also still looking for people to help me at the front of the parade with the lineup. I would like 9 people total to help me get the entries into the parking lot and lined up. If anyone is interested in helping, please give me a call at 669-2604. Time would be from about 10 am until the parade starts at noon. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Mark your calendars, come on down and join us for a day of remembering every veteran, every family who ever fought to protect and defend American ideals. Make this a day to celebrate our freedom, liberty and independence.

Memorial Day Celebration Events

Put up Flags – 6:00 am

Lions Chicken BBQ – 11:00 to 6:00 pm at McFarland High School

Post 534 Ladies Auxiliary – Brats, Hot Dogs, Chips

Memorial Day Parade – 12:00 Noon

Memorial Day Service Program – 1:00 pm

Take down flags, fold and store – 5:00 pm

Parade Chairperson

Kathy Durant

(608) 669-2604

Wanted: 15 Vets to ride on a float (sit on chairs) for Memorial Day Parade. Contact Dale Sankey for reservation 608-395-5942. Also, any Vet that would like to walk next to float would be welcome – Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion included.

The following letter is from a Distinguished Vietnam Era Veteran who participated in our 3/11/17 event. Many of this second group of participants expressed their emotions compared to the October 8th group. From my vantage point, I could see several of the participants display their emotions when saluting Captain Petri-Rose and receiving a welcome home and a thank you for serving.

Thank you for all your efforts to make this event a tremendous success!

Bob O'Donnell

[608-838-3551](tel:608-838-3551)

“March 20, 2017

Dear Commander O'Donnell and Members American Legion Post 534

On behalf of my wife Ruth and I, we would like to share our appreciation and thanks for the welcome ceremony and honoring of Vietnam Era Veterans at Post 534 Saturday March 11th. It was well planned and beautifully carried out. We know from our past experience at Post 534 this takes a lot of hard work and dedication to make this all happen.

Sitting in the front row we could see the faces clearly of those coming forward for their citation. Many of them were fighting back tears and doing their best to hold back their emotions. Some acted very cheerful and lively while I am sure they too had many memories in their minds.

While Ruth and I are no longer active at Post 534 we have wonderful memories of the many years we were very active. As we look back we see that now many of our comrades who were also very active in

Post 534 have passed on. While we are still on the younger side of old age many who have gone were our May, 2017

age or slightly older. Many were Post Commanders or very active members. Many were Vietnam War Veterans. Being at the Post reminded us of how much we miss all of them.

Lord willing in a couple years I will be going on an Honor Flight with men from my High School in Merrill Wisconsin. I understand there are enough of us to fill up the plane. The ceremony on the 11th just reinforced for me once again how serving in those times left an indelible mark on the men and women who served in the Service and our wives and families who stayed home and lived every day having no clue of the status of their loved one. I did not talk once to my wife or son for 13 straight months, it was total

separation. I also recognize the sacrifices of the women who served, many were in Vietnam and S.E.A.

I have reconnected over the years with many of my friends who served. All who have attended the Lambeau Welcome Home or other events such as what you held have appreciated the welcome home. I will never forget I was denied employment at the Sentry Food Store upon my return as I applied for a part time job to support my wife and son while attending UW Whitewater January 1970. I was asked if I had just been discharged from the service and the manager said we don't hire Vietnam Veterans here.

Thanks for the Welcome Home.

Mike Mietz

Past Commander American Legion Post 534"



Front Row (L to R) - Marino (Mike) Verdico; James Carpenter; Allan Thompson; Charles Wedekind; Dale Marsden; Webb Winn; Russell Williams; Isabel (Izzy) Laing
Back Row (L to R) Mike Mietz; James Kallas; Erhard Opsahl; Kenneth Kleinheinz; Richard Hoffman; Mike Henrickson; John Johnson; Larry Chatman; Richard Braun; USAF Capt. Rachel Petri-Rose

March 11, 2017 American Legion Post 534, McFarland, WI



✓ Mark your Calendar

It is time to setup your teams!

For the

2nd Annual Auxiliary Golf Outing

Save August 5, 2017 on your calendar!!

More information to follow.

Contact Person: Kelly Vinge

608-669-1709

Two Important Upcoming Events

Come on down to the Post on June 10th for live music by Rickey Lee beginning at 7:30 pm and on June 11th is our annual Take-A-Vet Fishing. So, mark your calendars.

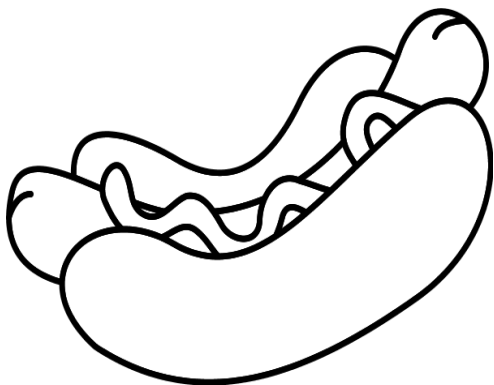
It is with great pleasure we announce our new

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HARDSHIP GRANT POLICY

This policy is designed to help any Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. member experience financial hardship. The type of hardship may be caused by the loss of a job, health and hospital issues or an unforeseen major expense.

The grant amount is a max of \$500. You or someone else may submit a grant request on your behalf. Forms will be available in the document information center at the Post, or from your Chaplain. Everything is kept strictly confidential.

If you know of someone in need, complete a request form and give it to one of the following committee members: Post Chaplain, Auxiliary Chaplain, S.A.L. Chaplain, Post Finance Officer, Committee Chair currently Rob Blanchar.



**MEMORIAL DAY
BRAT & HOT DAY SALE
10:30 am to 2:00pm
HOSTED BY AUXILIARY
UNIT 534**

Thanksgiving is a day when we pause to give thanks for the things we have.



Memorial Day is a day when we pause to give thanks to the people who fought for the things we have.

Memorial Day Celebration ***Monday - May 29, 2017***



McFarland **American Legion Post 534**

0600 - Put Up Flags

1100 - Ladies Auxiliary Brats, Hot Dogs & Chips

1100 to 1800 - Lions Chicken BBQ - McF. H.S.

1200 - Memorial Day Parade

1300 - Memorial Day Services Program

1700 - Take Down Flags, Fold & Store



Join us in Honoring Our Veterans





American Legion Post 534
 P.O. Box 196
 McFarland, WI 53558

**PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 P A I D
 PERMIT # 2944
 MADISON, WI**

Bar Manager.....Karen Larson
 Rental Officer.....Jim Wickert
 Newsletter.....Sharon Scallon
 Building/Grounds.....Denny Haugen

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm	2 S.A.L. Mtg 6:30 pm		4 Legion Mtg 7 pm	5 Spring Clean-Up 9am-12noon
7 Auxiliary Social 1-4 pm	8	9 Lions Club Wellness Committee Mtg 6:30 pm	10	11	12 No Rental	13 S.A.L. Spaghetti Dinner 4-8 pm
14	15	16	17 Exec Bd Mtg 7 pm Newsletter Articles Due	18	19	20 Rental
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 No Rental	29 Memorial Day Flags Up 6 am Flags Down 6 pm	30	31			

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Legion Mtg 7 pm	2	3		
4 Rental - Baby Shower	5	6 Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm	7 S.A.L. Mtg 6:30 pm	8	9 No Rental	10 Quits of Valor 6:30 pm Music by Ricky Lee 7:30 pm - ?
11 Take-A-Vet Fishing	12	13 Lion's Annual Mtg & Install of Officers	14	15	16 No Rental	17 Rental - Wedding
18	19	20	21 Exec Bd Mtg 7 pm Newsletter Articles Due	22	23 Joint Installation of Officers	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	