



October 2013

Rose Harms Legionnaire

graftonlegion.org

Get a Free Veterans Day Dinner Saturday, November 9th

**Compliments of the Sons and the Auxiliary, all
paid up members of the Rose Harms Post get a
Free Dinner!**

**So, renew your 2014 dues before Veterans Day
and join us for a great dinner and a fun night.**

6:00 p.m. Social hour

7:00 Dinner

8:00 Special Entertainment

with Music and Dancing to Follow





The Legion Family attend the Grafton High School football game honoring Veteran's.



Blackhawks won 62 to 7

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION----FALL CLOSING 2013

Submitted by Dick Lallensack

The annual Fall "work week" for closing Camp American Legion for Ozaukee County was the week of Sept 30th. A total of 98+ Legionaries, SAL's, Auxiliary Members, and Volunteers from around the State showed up at various times to close Camp. Ozaukee County had (39) Legionnaires, SAL's, and Volunteers in Camp for Fall Closing:

All Piers removed by a Group from Grafton. All Boats and Pontoon boats removed and stored as required.

Butch and Leroy of our Post completed the repairs in the Restroom of the Maintenance Shed---this is a project they started last spring. A window had been leaking and some of the plywood paneling on the wall was rotting. All is complete with a nice fresh coat of white paint.

Our SAL Squadron, new sponsors of the King Cabin, began cleaning up the lot.

Major Capital improvements completed this year: New Lake access and boat landing by Nat Guard, new Cabin 14, completion of the Split Rail fence, New Chapel and a new Waterfall.

Total attendance at Camp this year was fantastic! 544 veterans---then adding in the Care Givers, family members, and the Staff members of the special groups and we end up with a total of 1026 this year compared to 894 last year. That is a 100% increase from 2010 when there was 508.

Spring Opening has been set for April 21st thru May 3rd.

From our Ozaukee County Service Officer

Fully Developed Claims (FDCs) are claims for service-connected disability compensation that are submitted to the VA with all supporting evidence necessary to decide the claim.

The FDC program was initiated by the VA as an attempt to reduce the inventory of pending claims. When all of the supporting evidence is NOT submitted with a claim for disability compensation, the VA is legally required to attempt to obtain this information on the veteran's behalf.

However, often times this information (such as private medical records or employment records) is much more easily obtained by the veteran. Routinely, it is the VA's development efforts that slow the claims process. By submitting a claim together with all of the supporting evidence necessary to decide the claim, the

veteran can assist the VA in significantly reducing the processing time.

Under a new law in effect from August 6, 2013 through August 5, 2015, veterans who submit an FDC for their very first claim for service-connected disability compensation may be eligible for an additional year of retroactive disability benefits.

VA continues to implement other initiatives as well, including prioritizing claims more than one year old and mandating overtime for claims processors in the 56 regional benefits offices nationwide.

As a result of these initiatives, VA reports that the inventory of pending claims is lower now than it was in August 2011 with the number of claims that have been pending longer than 125 days reduced by 17% compared to the peak in March 2013.

Are You Dedicated and Reliable?

Then **I WANT YOU** to drive. Ozaukee County provides an extremely valuable service by transporting veterans to the VAMC or CBOC for medical appointments.

The County reimburses our drivers for mileage and pays a small per-veteran stipend. However, I know that none of our drivers do it for the money.

Ask any of these guys why they do it and you will learn that they know what it means to be able to rely on

someone else, to know that someone else is there for you and has your back –no matter what.

If you are interested, consider riding along with one of our current drivers and find out firsthand why they do it. Contact the Veterans Service Office for more information.

A HUGE THANK YOU! to all of the individuals who have been willing to drive so that we can continue to provide this service for the veterans of Ozaukee County. Most notably, I would like to thank: Ron Kuta, Dave Shanahan, Steve Shock and Charley Watry.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND VA HEALTH CARE

The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, sometimes called the *Affordable Care Act*, and sometimes called *Obamacare*, will not impact VA health care.

Veterans eligible for VA health care will remain eligible under current health reforms; nothing in the current legislation will affect veterans' access to the care that they currently are receiving. The legislation makes clear that the Department of Veterans Affairs will retain full authority over the VA health care system.

Furthermore, you meet the minimum coverage requirements of the *Affordable Care Act* if you are enrolled in VA health care, CHAMPVA or the Spina Bifida Health Care Program.

Please remember, that if you did not serve in Vietnam and you do not have a service-connected disability, then you must meet the "Means Test" requirements to enroll in the VA health care. The Means Test sets household income thresholds by geographic region for eligibility.

Current Means Test income thresholds for Priority Group 8 for a resident of Ozaukee County are:

Single Veteran: \$45,100

Married Veteran (no Children): \$51,535

Please contact the Veterans Service Office with any questions.



SAL Meeting Minutes - October 8, 2013

Treasurer's Report: Bill Riedl gave report

Membership Report: Paul Turowski gave report - 54 members (20 paid) Please pay dues by Veteran's Day.

Guest Speaker – Amy Luft from “Stars and Strips Honor Flight”

SAL voted to purchase Honor Flight book for \$100 and donated \$1,000 to the November 2nd Honor Flight.

Flags/flag lighting – SAL voted to buy and install lights for the Post's flag poles at \$365 each

SAL Beer Tasting Event at Fire Ridge – October 17th Please sell your tickets.

Veteran's Dinner at the Grafton Legion will be Saturday, November 9th, everyone is welcome.

Veterans eat free – SAL and Auxiliary will cover the cost of their meals.

Christmas tree at Paramount Plaza – SAL will share the cost with the Legion and Auxiliary \$25 each.

SAL Purchased 25 Red Arrow Division can openers \$125 to give away to veterans at the Beer Tasting Event.

50/50 raffle won by Paul Turowski

Legion Meal for November 11th – Larry Rieck

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30 p.m.



SAL members Kurt Sutinen and Al Richards shoot with the 105th Cavalry team during a sporting clays fundraiser for the USO.

Kurt won a nice basket and Al won a Robin Yount autographed baseball. Sgt. Canada said who is Robin Yount? What the Hell, man?



AUXILIARY AWARENESS

Hello American Legion Family,

October was another exciting month for our American Legion Family!

Thank you to ALL that have done their best to make our Legion Post the BEST in Ozaukee County!

When I say November, do you think of Goose Hunting, Turkey Hunting, Deer Hunting, a Special Ladies Weekend, Thanksgiving and Black Friday! How many of you already have your hunting plans, how about your Thanksgiving Day plans, which of you will be standing in lines to get the bargain of a lifetime for Christmas?

How about this, When I say November may I ask each of you too also consider the following:

November is Honor our Veteran's Month, are you planning on going to welcome home our Heroes' from the **Stars and Stripes Honor Flight on November 2** at Mitchell Airport or honor the Vietnam Veterans at the **Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute in Madison on Friday November 8**? There are still seats available on our Ozaukee County Bus!

Who is planning on going to the **Veterans Day Parade in Milwaukee** and or the **Veterans Day Dinner/Dance at our Post, both are on Saturday November 9**? What about on **November 11**, how many of you plan to join our Veterans in the **Grafton Veterans Day Parade** then lunch at the Post! Thank you in advance for your consideration of participation!

Do any of you remember learning this proclamation in school?

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

***Whereas** the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and*

***Whereas** it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and*

***Whereas** the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.*

Remember please that WE would not be able to enjoy all of the fun things I mentioned above without our Veterans! **Join your Auxiliary and Thank every Veteran you see every day for Their Service/Sacrifices and your FREEDOM.**

*Until we meet again, Serving Our Veterans, Their Families and Our Communities,
Sue*



Rose-Harms Unit 355
American Legion Auxiliary
October 2013 Newsletter



Thank you to everyone who came early to our September meeting and participated in the wonderful dinner that was served in honor of our 2012-2013 Auxiliary member of the year, Linda Brown! Congratulations Linda! Thank you for going above and beyond in all areas of the Auxiliary mission to make our Unit the best that it can be.

President Sue Turowski, introduced our special guest Legionnaire Neil Traxel. Neil spoke about the new Milwaukee Homeless Veteran Initiative program. This program will offer assistance to veterans by supplying them with the necessary furnishings needed as they make their move into new housing. There will be a fundraiser at Circle B in Cedarburg on November 11, 2013. Please see the attached flyer for details.

Membership Chair Renata Quillen, thanked the 103 members that already renewed their memberships. If you have not done so already, please consider renewing your membership now and helping us obtain our Unit goal of 159 by the end of the year.

VA & R Chair Mel Nowak, asked members to please bring any of the following items to our November meeting for the Zablocki Christmas Gift Shop:

Sweatshirts (adults S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL) (children 4 -18) No logos except Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin.

Knits: hats, scarves, mittens

Wallets: Mens/Womens

Dolls: Barbie & baby doll

Cars/trucks

Small & medium stuffed animals

Games: Boys & Girls ages 8-16

Afghans/bathroom towel sets/kitchen towel sets

Note: Kids items are greatly needed. Please do not send anything that is not on the above list. Do NOT wrap any items.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Fish Boil. This year event was another great success! Thank you to the Legion members and the Sons of the Legion for supporting the Auxiliary with this fundraiser.

The next Honor Flight will take place on Saturday, November 2nd. There will be two planes: one with WWII veterans and the other with Korean veterans. Please come to the airport at 7:00 p.m. to welcome these heroes home. The new Stars and Stripes Honor Flight coffee table book, Honor Flight: A Visual Journey will be available on Veterans' Day. This beautiful book, which contains over 330 spectacular photos, will sell for \$100. Half of the proceeds will go towards Stars & Stripes Honor Flight and the other half will go towards the Fisher House. Please contact Amy Luft (414-651-7300) if you are interested in purchasing.

Please join the Auxiliary Units of Ozaukee County in honoring the Vietnam veterans. There will be a special trip to Madison on Friday, November 8th honoring the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Transportation will be provided – a bus will leave the Park-n-Ride on Highway C (Pioneer Road, Cedarburg) at 9:00 a.m. and return home at approximately 6:00 p.m. Members should be at the park and ride by 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$10 for Auxiliary members/free for Veterans. Please contact Sue Turowski at (262-389-4644) if you are interested in participating.

The American Legion Family is invited for dinner with the National President, Nancy Brown-Park on **Friday**, November 8th at the Mason-Lindsay Post 385 in Verona. Please contact Judy Kuta (262-262-377-8613) for complete details. Reservations are due October 24th.

Our Post Veteran's Day Dinner/Dance will take place on Saturday, November 9th. All Post veterans will again eat for FREE! Come for an evening of great food and entertainment. See attached registration for complete details. Following our Veteran's Dinner/Dance will be our Veteran's Day parade and luncheon on Monday, November 11th at the Post. The parade will step-off from the Post at 10:30 a.m. There will be a ceremony at Veteran's Park at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon to follow at the Post. Please contact Ann Fields (262-375-9018) if you are interested in marching in the parade. Contact Linda Brown (262-268-8296) if you are interested in helping with the Veteran's Day Luncheon.

The annual Legion Family Christmas tree decorating will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20th at 5:00 p.m. at the Paramount Plaza. This year's theme is "Grafton Sings the Blues". Please contact Sue Turowski (262-389-4644) if you are interested in participating.

The deadline for the next Marcus Movie ticket orders is November 22 & December 13. See the attached order form for complete details.

The Auxiliary Christmas Party is Tuesday December 17 at the Post. Please mark you calendars more details to follow!

Make sure to mark your calendars for the Auxiliary Packer Party at our Post on Sunday, December 29. More details available soon!

Amy Luft, Secretary

Upcoming Events

November 2 – Honor Flight

November 9 – Veteran's Dinner/Dance

November 11 – Veteran's Parade/Luncheon

November 8 – Vietnam 50th Bus Trip to Madison

November 15 – Auxiliary Meeting

November 8 – National ALA President's Dinner - Verona

November 20 – Legion Family Christmas Tree Decorating

November 30 – Grafton Christmas Parade

Dear members of Rose-Harms American Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 2 years ago we learned of a group of Vets in Dom 123 at Zablocki Veterans Complex in Milwaukee for whom there were no Christmas gifts. These men and women are in treatment for substance/alcohol abuse, trauma caused by assault, PTSD, etc. The maximum stay is 90 days. Most have nowhere to go once released. For the past 2 years, through the generous support of Auxiliary Units, two Sons of the American Legion Squadrons, and many individuals, 2nd district has been able to provide a Christmas bag consisting of basics: a pair of gloves, socks, a knit hat, and a \$5.00 gift card to Pick N Save, plus some miscellaneous items. This year our goal is 240 bags. We'd appreciate any donations. Your items (or monetary donation and we'll do the shopping) can be dropped off during our next Unit meeting on Tuesday Nov 19th. Our contact information is listed below for any questions/to arrange pick-up. Deadline is December 1st. We've been told that for many of these Vets, this is the only gift they will receive this Holiday Season. Thanks for your generosity in making Christmas a little brighter, and winter a little more bearable, for these Vets who have given so much to preserve our freedoms and who now find themselves in need of a helping hand.

Linda Faas ALA 2nd District VA & R Chairman
Judy Kuta ALA 2nd District President/Project Co-Chair

cell #414-217-5594
home #262-377-8613

Fund Raiser for Rose-Harms American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #355 Grafton, WI

DISCOUNT MARCUS MOVIE TICKETS

All proceeds benefit our veterans and their families. Support our heroes!

Name _____ Today's Date _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

Silver Fun Tickets* _____ x \$6.50 = Total \$ _____ *Not valid after 6 pm on Saturdays or for Movies that are "Pass List Suspended". No expiration date.*

Platinum Fun Tickets* _____ x \$8.50 = Total \$ _____ *No restrictions, no expiration date.*

***1 FREE \$3 Marcus Snack Cash Voucher with every 2 Silver or Platinum Fun Tickets Purchased**

Gift Certificate Denominations \$5 _____, \$10 _____, \$25 _____ = Total \$ _____

NEW Gift Card Denominations \$10 _____, \$25 _____ = Total \$ _____

Same as cash. No restrictions. No expiration date. Valid at all Marcus properties nationwide.

☐ Here is my e-mail address for future ticket sale notices ONLY _____

Check should be made payable to the **American Legion Auxilliary #355**. Call 414-659-6951 with questions
Mail order blank with check to: Laurie Schwalbe, 1127 11th Avenue, Grafton, WI 53024. *(Prices are subject to change.)*

2013 orders will be placed March 15, June 21, Sept 20, Nov 22 and Dec 13.

Veterans Day Dinner Nov. 9th Post Veterans are Free !

Non-Veterans _____ x \$15 = Total enclosed \$ _____

Please mark down if you are a Post Veteran

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

**Make checks payable to
Mail to**

**Rose Harms Post 355
1540 13th Ave.
Grafton, WI 53024**