



Rose Harms Legionnaire

February 2017

33ND LAS VEGAS NIGHT **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18th**

FREE BEER BEING SERVED FROM 6:30 to 7:30

GAMING WILL TAKE PLACE 7:00 to 11:00




Let your family and friends know to come out for an evening of fun and games on Saturday, February 18th to make this event another successful evening for Rose Harms Post 355. Your support is appreciated by Post 355.

Please try to sell tickets mailed to you in December. Ticket sales are a large part of the profit for the evening. If you are in need of more tickets contact Butch at 377-9596 and he will see that you receive more tickets. Ticket stubs can be mailed back to the post or can be dropped off at the front of the post in the mail slot.

More help is needed to deal Blackjack and Texas Hold'em, contact Steve Shock at 377-3728 if you can help him that evening for a couple of hours. Doug Arendt is looking for help with the roulette wheel and the craps tables and be reached at 617-9737 if you can lend a hand for a couple of hours.

Butch Paegelow can be reached at 377-9596 with any questions or ideas to help make this night a success for Post 355. We hope to see you all there.

Up Coming Events at the Post

February 6th	Post Executive Committee meeting
February 13th	Post General Meeting
February 14th	Valentines Day 
February 14th	BINGO
February 14th	SAL - Lower hall
February 18th	Las Vegas Night
February 20th	Historians Club
February 20th	Card Club - Lower hall
February 26th	MeL'S Jam For Vets



COMMANDER'S CORNER—Ken Kasprzak



As I sit writing another page of my ongoing Commanders Corner, it seems like yesterday that I was voted to lead Post 355. My second year is coming to close in a speedy fashion. I've enjoyed all of the challenges and it definitely has been a learning experience. I'm hoping to be elected for a third term and will be proud

to serve. However, forgive the picture without a tie, but it was taken at Colectivo coffee after Grafton's Christmas parade. Also, I was on my way to the Bridge Inn to enjoy Mel's Charities hospitality party.

Don't forget that additional orders are now being accepted for the Brick Memorial at Rose-Harms Post 355. Order deadline is April 1, 2017. We currently have orders for the equivalent of 24, 4x8 bricks.

To order go to "graftonlegion.com" and print an order form. Also, order forms are available for pick up at Rose Harms Post 355.

For information, contact me at 262-618-4925.

In January, several Post members, including myself attended the American Legion of Wisconsin Midwinter conference in Baraboo.

Highlights of this meeting were:

- 2nd District Oratorical finals. Katie Lamb represented our Post and placed second. Thank you Katie for an outstanding performance.
- Saturday evening, I attended a dinner at which a Legacy Plaque was awarded to the Post, Legion Riders, and the SAL. Our donations in support of the Legacy Scholarship Fund give children of fallen and disabled veterans an opportunity to attend college.
- Training classes also were available on topics such as Leadership, Honor Guard, and Funerals.

Note that I did not win the grand prize of \$20,000 at the Midwinter Sweepstakes. However, I did gain membership in the 2nd District Turtle Club. Jim Arentz, Steve Shock, Dick Lallensack, and Ron Kuta were present to share a drink with me.

GOOD OF THE LEGION.

Bill Clayton and I have begun the selection process for students to attend the 2017 Badger Boys State at Rip-

on College. In addition to reviewing applications, we also will do a personal interview.

Note that our Ladies Auxiliary has graciously offered to serve a potluck dinner on the night of our March 13 meeting. Plan to attend and enjoy a wonderful meal.

CORRESPONDENCE.

An early thank you to Grafton Community organizations for their contributions to our 33rd annual Las Vegas Night fundraiser. Also to Grafton residents who support us by their attendance at this fun event.

In January, I drafted a membership letter with assistance from Gary Gilstrap. It was mailed to about 45 members who have not paid their 2017 dues. Let's hope that they respond to this request and get our membership totals above 90%.

Living Well----Do all you can to prevent high blood pressure. In 2016, 1.13 billion people suffered from high blood pressure. That is almost double the number of people with the condition 40 years ago.

NEW VA NUMBER

When VA Secretary Bob McDonald first started evaluating customer service practices across VA to improve the Veteran experience, the need for a revamped phone system was clear. Instead of navigating dozens of automated phone trees with no guarantee of success, Veterans needed one place to call to get connected to the right place quickly.

VA is introducing **1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311)** as a go-to source for Veterans and their families who don't know what number to call. This new national toll-free number will help eliminate the feeling of frustration and confusion that Veterans and their families have expressed when navigating the 1000-plus phone numbers that currently exist. With 1-844-MyVA311, Veterans, families, and caregivers can access information about VA services like disability, pension, healthcare eligibility, enrollment, and burial benefits, in addition to a self-service locator to find the nearest VA facility. And if they're looking for immediate assistance with housing or are having a mental health crisis, MyVA311 will route callers to the Homeless Veteran help line and the Veterans Crisis Line.

If you know what number you're calling - keep calling it. None of the existing VA numbers will go away. The future vision is that 1-844-MyVA311 will become a 24/7 one-stop information service platform for all VA services.

Highlights from our last Post meeting

Chaplain Les Williams said that 9 Holiday fruit baskets were distributed by him. Baskets were obtained from Piggly Wiggly in Cedarburg at a very good price and all recipients extremely grateful.

Membership; Gary Gilstrap reported that membership in the post was at 280 with yearly membership goal of 320.

Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Knoppa reported that we had a great turnout and performance for the Christmas Parade.

The Post had another successful Post Blood Drive this year.

See Mike if you are interested in a free slightly used 3' x 5' flag.

Americanism: Bill Clayton reported that he has received Badger Boys State materials and conducted several interviews with candidates.

Athletic Doug Arendt asked the members to see him if they were interested in the 2nd District and County bowling tournaments.

Bingo: Tom Peterson reported: December Bingo grossed \$811 with all ancillaries.

Oratorical: Lee Wiskirchen: Katie Lamb, Post oratorical Contest winner, has won County and moves on now to the District contest.

Camp American Legion: Dick Lallensack reported: Camp opening prep is April 18th to the 30th. June 10th — 23rd is Korea/Vietnam Wars Remembrance Week.

Unfinished Business: Reminder to those that ordered shirts and jackets they should be in this week - Contact Marty

Executive Committee **Recommendations** passed

- Increase Post's 2 scholarships, academic and technical, to \$2,000 apiece.
- Spend up to \$1,000 to outfit main deck kitchen with new cabinetry.

- To purchase a 32" flat screen TV (with a cost not to exceed \$200) for the Post's Cabin #17 at Camp American Legion.

Good of the Legion

- 20 bricks for the Memorial Brick fundraiser have been ordered for the 2nd installment.
- 2nd District's "4 Chaplains Dinner" is at West Bend Post #36 on February 4th.
- Kudos to Marty Wegner for his work ordering shirts and jackets . . .
- The Military Historians presented at their monthly meeting at the Post Monday, January 16th, John Katzka, a career diplomat and Air Force veteran, who spoke on the fall of the USSR.



Representatives from "All My Friends Playground", designed for special needs children, were presented with checks totaling \$2,500 from the Rose-Harms Post Legion Family.

Calendar Raffle:

- \$50 – Lucille Hilgart
- \$30 – Nick Bova
- \$25 – Lisa Mueller
- \$20 – Pat Duester
- \$15 – Gordon Lueder
- \$10 – Eleanor Laydon

Visit us on our web page - grafftonlegion.org

or on Facebook - Rose Harms Post 355



SAL News – February 2017

The Rose-Harms Post's SAL group membership is strong with seventy nine members who have paid their 2017 dues and only nine members are unpaid. If you are one of the nine or you know someone who would like to join, please contact Paul Turowski via email turowskipaul@yahoo.com or phone: 262-389-4645 to make payment arrangements.

Brian announced the SAL jackets had a mix up on correct fabric at the manufacturer that he straightened out. The jackets are now at the screeners and we now hope to have them available by the February meeting. Anyone wishing to order a jacket can still do so by contacting Brian. See info below.

Everything is coming together for the 33rd Annual Vegas Night on February 18th. Expect to have many possibilities for a chance to win prizes. We are still looking for more raffle donations.

Post Family Bowling is set for January 28th at Circle B Lanes. Registration starts at noon and bowling begins at 1pm. Require help selling raffle tickets and need to know who wants to bowl. Please don't wait till the last minute to register. Contact Bob Rieck via email: robertjrieck@gmail.com or by day phone: 262-377-4190 before the event to let him know if you want to register to bowl or volunteer.

Our SAL members voted to donate \$1,000 to support the Honor Flight.

The \$2,500 donation from the Post, Auxiliary and SAL, was presented to All My Friends Playground on Jan 9th. The Post was notified that their groundbreaking had to be postponed to allow more time to receive enough donations.

Tim Hansen's son is now accepting orders for an US metal artwork wall hangings. The two sizes available are 24" wide by 16" high at \$45 and 33" wide by 24" high at \$75. A portion of the proceeds will go to benefit the West Bend High School Capstone program and the remainder will be given to the American Legion Riders District 2. Orders and inquiries please contact Tim Hanson from SAL and ALR District 2 at 262-305-5984 or hdsixpack@yahoo.com.



To order SAL clothing: Contact Brian Hadler @ 262-894-7465

Upcoming Legion Post Meeting Dinner Volunteers: Volunteers to serve at 7:45pm

Feb 13 – Neal **March** – No Volunteers needed **Apr 10** - Kim

Upcoming Events

Jan 28 – Post Family Bowling @ Circle B

Feb 14 – SAL meeting @ 6:30pm

Feb 18 – Vegas Night @ 6:00pm

Feb 26 – Mel's Jam for Vets @ Noon



Rose-Harms Unit 355 American Legion Auxiliary February 2017 Newsletter

In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of our Veterans and American Legion Family!

Make sure to attend Las Vegas Night at the Post on **Saturday, February 18**. Doors open at 6:30 pm. The Auxiliary will be serving our *famous* Sloppy Joe's, along with other snacks and sweets. Members are asked to donate small individual packaged bags of salty & sweet snacks. Volunteers are also needed to work the event. Please contact Janice Bould at 262-385-0217 for more information.

You won't want to miss *Mel's Jam for Vets* – a Stars & Stripes Honor Flight benefit. This second annual music event will be held at the Post on **Sunday, February 26 from noon – 5:00 pm**. Admission is free!

The first 2017 Stars & Stripes Honor Flight will be on Saturday, April 8

Upcoming order dates for Marcus movie tickets are March 22 and June 21. To place your order contact Laurie Schwalbe at 414-659-6951.



Join us and play the **USPY Stars & Stripes** game! Help us identify local businesses that fly the American flag. We will be presenting the businesses with a certificate of appreciation from our Unit. Bring your business names to our meetings each month or forward them to Department Americanism chair, Amy Luft at 414-651-7300 or amjluft@gmail.com.

Reminder that our March meeting will be held in conjunction with the Legion Birthday potluck on **Monday, March 13**.

Cathy's Thoughts

Trying to come up with something for the Newsletter is kind of tough. I don't usually have a hard time coming up with something to talk about. The holidays are over, the weather is yuk, and I have no thought except the winter blahs.....thank goodness February brings Valentine's day!

I love my handy tool called Google and use it probably every day. I read some stories about Veterans that served in WW II and the love letters they wrote. I came across a story where a Veteran had read a love letter that he wrote to his girlfriend back home. They eventually lived happily ever after, married for 63 years. A woman bought a record at a thrift shop and found the love letter the veteran wrote to his soon to be wife. She delivered it to him and he was overwhelmed to read the letter he wrote to the love of his life when he was in his twenties. He read the old letter now at 90 years old. Of course there were tears as he read it. Imagine how his heart felt reading this letter all over again from 70 years ago. In the letter he wrote that he hoped she did not think of him being too sentimental as he missed her so much. You could say the letter was held in a time capsule by mistake in the album cover.

I'm sure there were plenty of love letters being mailed during the war. Remember the saying "distance makes the heart grow fonder" It was even more difficult when the distance is because of a war. The brave veterans that served our country left the love of their lives and family. It is another sacrifice that they made for us and our country.





**Saturday,
March 18th**



Celebrate St. Patty's Day
and
The American Legion's Birthday

**with Corned Beef & Cabbage
and tasty Chicken
All for only \$15 each.**

Everyone is Welcome - the Fun begins at 6:00pm

We have limited space, so please RSVP - ASAP

Names

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

or Call 262- 377-8887



★ ★ ★ **ATTENTION** ★ ★ ★
WWII & Korean War Veterans

*WWII and Korean War Veterans,
Stars and Stripes Honor Flight invites you
to sign up for your Honor Flight!*

Whether you served stateside or abroad,
saw combat or not, your service to our
country deserves **RECOGNITION** and
THANKS.

Join us for your **completely free**
Honor Flight to see your memorials in
Washington DC and experience a full day
of honor with your fellow veterans.
Applications can be downloaded from our
website, or call us to have one mailed to you.

www.starsandstripeshonorflight.org

262-238-7740

contact@starsandstripeshonorflight.org



MEL'S JAM FOR VETS

SECOND ANNUAL MUSIC EVENT AT THE GRAFTON AMERICAN LEGION

Sunday Feb. 26, Noon-5pm
Rose-Harms American Legion
1540 13th Avenue, Grafton, WI

Net proceeds to be donated to
Stars & Stripes Honor Flight of Wisconsin



Music by
Serious Jones &
Ozaukee County Jam Band

- Admission: FREE, good will donations appreciated
- Cash bar
- Mel's famous pulled pork

Sponsors:

