



Rose Harms Legionnaire

July 2020

USA

Happy Independence Day

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in their bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." – **Ronald Reagan**

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month." — **Theodore Roosevelt**

"If the freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." — **George Washington**

Editorial Note - Although we may not be perfect, I still believe that this is the greatest Country the earth has ever seen. We still have the freedom to work hard at who we want to be and to say what we want to say.

The news I've seen on TV lately is driving me crazy, because I remember seeing brave young men sacrificing their lives for that freedom.

So on this 4th of July, if your feelings are hurt by the President's quotes above or by something they might have done 200 years ago, or something I might have said ... too damn bad.

Al Richards



Monday, July 6th

Post Executive Committee meeting

Monday, July 13th

Post General Meeting at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, July 14th

SAL meeting at 6:30 pm in the lower hall

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING on June 1, 2020, was called to order by Post Commander Kevin Dressel. Members present were Ken Kasprzak, Jim Arentz, Tom Grabow, Ralph Beck, Sandra Krzewinski, Mike Knoppa, Gary Gilstrap. Steve Shock, Butch Paegelow, and Al Richards.

Guests---- Post Auxiliary President Sue Turowski and Sons of the American Legion Commander Corey Esselmann. Sue reported on Legion Family Survey that was sent out to get members opinions on whether or not to have August 8th celebration at Veterans Park. A proposal was approved to cancel the event, with the possibility of holding it next year.

Al Richards asked the board for their opinion on when to reopen the halls for rental. When we do, we will need volunteers to help with the sanitizing of the halls before and after an event? How large of a group should we limit it to? Al will ask our Post's insurer to check on what, if any, liabilities we may incur by opening the Post.

The Boards recommendation was that we should not have any hall rentals for summer, with a tentative restart in September. Jim Arentz said that the startup of Bingo in September is on hold for now. Steve Shock will check with Scouts and get info about timetable for restart of their meetings at Post.

The board members voted to recommend a bronze plaque for the flag pole that the Post donated to the new baseball fields. Also, requested Ken to get a quote on an 8 inch length size.

Ralph Beck reported that we did receive a \$900 credit from Badger Boys State program for their cancellation. A refund from Aerican Legion Baseball for their cancelling the season will be sent to the Post.

Tom Grabow reported that booking tent rentals has begun with first job on June 12. A sign up sheet for much needed helpers is posted on bulletin board by the lower bar.

Gary Gilstrap joyfully reported that the Rose Harms Post 355 has achieved 100% membership for the year of 2020 with 298 members. A big thank you to Gator for all his super efforts.



Old Business

Commander Kevin Dressel, thanked everyone involved with the Legion photos banners at Veterans Park. A job very well done.

The Rose Harms Post 355 annual calendar raffle will start a new year with a drawing at our next Post meeting on July 13, 2020.

Thank You to Tom Berk, of CKC Graphics, for making the SAL Golf Outing sign.

New Business

Steve Shock read Wisconsin State Legion resolution for election of officers 2020-21. Which basically asked that current Post, County and District officers continue for another year. A vote was taken, with the current officers accepting to keep their positions for another year, was passed.

The Executive Board members decided it would be in the interest of our membership to cancel our regular Post meeting in June. The July Post meeting will be held at its normal time on Monday, July 13th at 7:00 pm. The hall will be setup to allow for social distancing with a recommendation to those attending, to wear masks.

Monthly Calendar Raffle Winners for June

\$50	Marlene Donahue
\$30	Amanda Jozwowski
\$25	Tommy Lamb
\$20	Arline Kaul
\$15	Jim Klimek
\$10	Karen O'Sullivan

Our new monthly Calendar Raffle drawing starts in July. Make sure to send you get your entrees into the Post!

CHAPLAINS CORNER-----KEN KASPRZAK



Another month has passed as we deal with the effects of the COVID pandemic. A quote from David Wischer, Wisconsin Department Commander, "These are difficult times, but together we will be okay".

As most individuals and families, we have adapted our daily lives in order to get through this health crisis. My daily routine is simple and seems to repeat itself as I wake to begin another day. We learn to be happy in spite of Social Distancing and Stay At Home. If only I had my wife here with me. Fortunately, my daughter and her family live in PW and we visit often.

The Post's 8th Grade Outstanding Student Awards, which were normally presented during our Memorial Day ceremonies, will now be given to the school principals. They will then present to the following students.

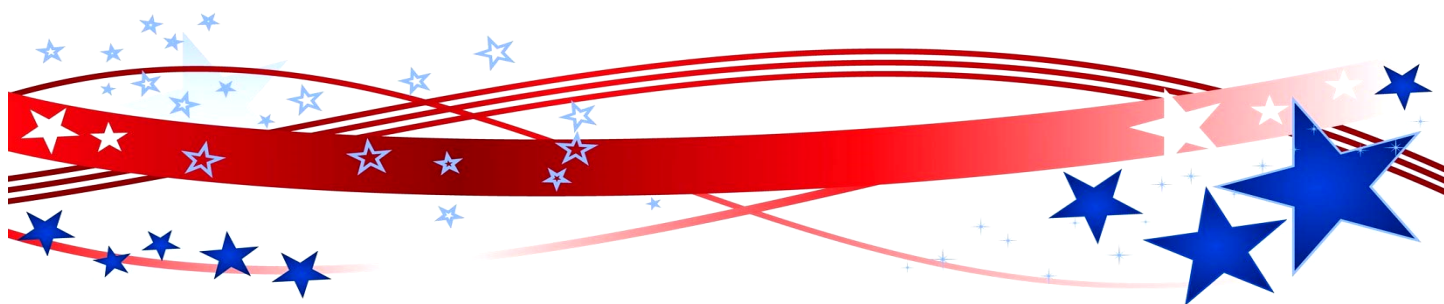
Rachel Babler, Our Savior Lutheran School;
Keegan Vaculik, St. Joseph Parish School;
Natalie Ernst, St. Paul Lutheran School;
Pyper Flaig, John Long Middle School.

On Wednesday, May 27th, the Rose Harms Post 355 awarded scholarships to two Grafton High School graduating seniors. The scholarship are worth \$3,000 each, payable over two years.

The Post's Academic Scholarship was awarded to Dominic Menzia. Dominic plans on attending UW -Whitewater or UWM-Washington County majoring in Secondary Education.

The Post's Vocational scholarship was awarded to Nathaniel Uttke. He plans on attending Milwaukee Area Technical College pursuing a career in Mechanical Design Technology.

Living Well----Becoming forgetful? Can't remember names, dates, places? Don't assume your memory problems are a sign of Alzheimer's disease. A variety of conditions can contribute to memory loss. Here's some possible causes----Aging, Medical conditions (pneumonia, UTI, COPD), Stroke and vascular disease, Medications to treat health conditions and OTC sleep aids such as Benadryl. Sleep disorders, Vitamin deficiencies, Substance abuse, Depression, Thyroid disease, Head injury and brain tumor. Many of these conditions are treatable and once treated memory improves. Consult your physician if you or your loved ones have concerns about your health.





Update by Secretary Mary Kolar on June 26, 2020.

First of all, I want to brief you on what is happening in Madison, our state's capital, and that is also happening worldwide. I live on the Capitol Square and have personally witnessed thousands of peaceful protestors gather to demand change and accountability and to call on this country to keep its promise of justice, fairness, and equity. Unfortunately, a few have taken a less peaceful tactic and have damaged several buildings on State Street and near the Capitol, including 30 W. Mifflin, the building that houses the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. I have heard from veterans expressing their concern for the Museum. Please know that nothing inside the building, none of our collections, were touched or damaged. The damage is limited to graffiti on the outside of the building in which we lease space for the Museum.

Our primary focus remains centered on advocating for all veterans - veterans who were willing to give their lives for our country. I hope you will join me in reflecting on and reviewing how we can ensure equitable treatment for all veterans regardless of the color of their skin. You may already be aware that at our Homes we have been testing both members and staff for COVID-19 over the past six weeks as part of the overall effort throughout the state to identify all cases of COVID-19 in nursing homes. We have received the majority of the test results. Almost all are negative, but some are still pending. At Chippewa Falls, all members and staff completed the first round of testing with everyone testing negative.

At Union Grove, all members completed the first round of testing and we are very pleased that every member has tested negative for COVID-19. We continue to test and receive results for staff. Of the staff results so far, we have had one asymptomatic individual test positive. This was in addition to another staff person who had self-reported a positive test after feeling ill. Both have returned to work.

At King, we have tested over 1200 members and staff. We are awaiting results for about 200 tests, which we expect to receive in the coming days. So far we've had two positive test results, one member and one staff. The single member who tested positive was asymptomatic and retested twice. Both retests were negative. One staff person tested positive but was asymptomatic. This asymptomatic employee was quarantined at home for 14 days and has returned. We have been largely successful in keeping COVID-19 out of our Homes because of the diligence of our outstanding staff, as well as the protocols we have in place to help prevent spread. Our staff are truly heroes and I thank them for all they are doing in the face of this challenge.

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S LEGISLATIVE DIVISION UPDATE - June 27th, 2020

Congress - One issue sure to see floor action will be the treatment of military memorials to those who served the Confederate States of America, including the naming of bases. The Senate would create a commission to figure the situation out over the course of three years. Earlier in the week, however, dozens of Democrats signed onto legislation introduced by Sen. Warren (D-MA) that would change those names within a year.

Army combats racial bias - As of August 1, the Army will no longer include photos of Soldiers in officer promotion board packages and proceedings. A June 24 memo signed by both Army Secretary McCarthy and Chief of Staff General McConville says "diversity is critical to every aspect of Talent Management in our Army...elimination of the photos will help ensure that selection boards are as fair and impartial as possible."

The Army will start evaluating the use of photos in warrant officer and enlisted promotion considerations in August. An Army directive will be issued by the end of September implementing these changes.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Esper had proposed eliminating the use of photos as a way to erase unconscious bias from the promotion process. The Army is the first Service to act on that proposal.



American Legion Auxiliary Rose-Harms Unit 355 Newsletter – July 2020

The poppy committee reports their drive-up poppy distribution held the weekend of June 12th and 13th was moderately successful, but were disappointed that attendance by the membership was poor. Be sure to watch future newsletters for details of any further poppy distributions that may be planned. Poppies are made by Veterans and any funds raised are kept separate and used strictly for Veterans and their families. Profits from poppy distribution contribute greatly to our Unit's ability to support our veterans.

With restrictions currently in place due to Covid-19, fundraising of any kind will be limited, restricting our ability to contribute to organizations we normally support. If anyone wishes to send a contribution, especially those members out-of-state, it can be mailed to: Rose Harms ALA Unit 355, 1540 13th Ave, Grafton, WI 53024. Please mark "Poppy Contribution" on the memo line of your check.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Our Spring Banquet was held on June 16th at Bunkers Restaurant with 37 members present, making it the best attended Banquet in many years. Unit member Stacey Peck addressed the group to thank everyone who had sent letters of encouragement while she was working as an ICU nurse in New Jersey during the height of the Covid-19 outbreak. She stressed how serious things are and on the importance of wearing masks and social distancing. (THANK-YOU, STACEY, FOR YOUR BRAVERY).

President Sue presented the Member of the Year Award to Janice Bould, who was not able to attend the Post dinner dance in March. She also presented gifts to Executive Board members and to our Poppy Princesses Ashlyn Paape and Rylee Turowski.

Special thanks were offered to our State Bowling committee Toni Moegenburg and Pam Klenner. Although this tournament had to be cancelled, the Grafton Unit has been offered the opportunity to host it here next year.

Thanks also went to Ann Fields, Diane Riedl, and Jean Rieck for all their work in putting on tonight's banquet. A great time was had by all.



***Special thanks to Ashlyn and Rylee, and ALL who contributed,
when they passed out poppies at the banquet.***

About \$100.00 was collected!



Last month we reported that Jenna Klos had been chosen to represent the State of Wisconsin for the National Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship. We're happy to say she's received notification that she was one of 10 chosen to receive this \$2,500.00 award. Congratulations again, Jenna!

From President Sue:

Our next Executive Board meeting is scheduled on Tuesday July 8th in the lower level of the Post at 6:30 pm. All board members are expected to attend. Feel free to wear a mask, gloves or anything else that makes you feel comfortable. There is more than enough space for all to spread out for social distancing.

Our next Unit meeting will be at the Post, lower level, on Tuesday July 21. Fellowship starts at 6:00 pm and meeting begins at 6:30. We will be passing around a signup sheet for food items for the Annual Post Corn Roast which will take place at the Legion Post on Monday August 10.

The Membership Committee will be doing a membership drive at the corn roast so please be prepared to pay your 20-21 dues at that time.

Our 2020-2021 year will begin at our August meeting on Tuesday the August 18th.
Fellowship at 6:00, meeting at 6:30.

Per an email received from Commander Kevin and Amy Luft, the Sweat-4-Vets walk has been rescheduled for September 19. Watch for further details.

County President Cathy Brunnquell reports that she hopes the next County Meeting will be held on October 14th, at the Port Washington Post. Again, watch for further details.

From Linda:

If anyone has anything to contribute to future newsletters, please contact me at (lindafaas97@gmail.com).

Until we meet again, everyone stay safe, and follow guidelines. Let's lookout for each other!