



DECEMBER

2023

Monday, December 4th

Executive Committee meeting

No County meeting

Monday, December 11th

Post General meeting

Tuesday, December 12th

BINGO

Tuesday, December 12th

Sons of the AL meeting

Monday, December 18th

Military Historians

Monday, December 18th

Card Club (anyone can play)

Monday, December 25th

Christmas

Monday, January 1st

Happy New Year!

*Merry
Christmas*

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**





IMPORTANT

If your American Legion membership card still has 2023 on it, you need to send in your \$35 for the new 2024 card.

The 2023 cards will expire on December 31st.

Chaplain Claude Taylor asked for help with finding our homebound veterans.

Membership: New Post members that were welcomed aboard were Betsy Gleesing and Aradonis Nusberger

Sergeant-at-Arm: Mike Knoppa/ Nick Schanen reported a great program was had at the GHS Veterans Day program.

Americanism: Ken Kasprzak reported the Post is looking for 4 students to represent our Post at Badger Boys State program this summer.

Children & Youth: Doug Arendt reported 1,100 attended the performances of the JLMS Musical, Peter Pan.

Oratorical: Lee Wiskirchen reported there are currently 6 students that plan to take part in the Post Oratorical Contest on 11 December . . .

Camp American Legion: Bill Vorac reported Camp is officially closed. Thanks to those Post members that went to Camp and helped in its closing. Planning for next year is in Progress . . .

Entertainment: Al Richards said

95 people attended the Veterans Day Dinner. Thanks to the Auxiliary and SAL for paying for the Veterans.

Recommendation Passed; To Donate \$500 to Grafton's Christmas Parade.

New Business:

County Commander, John Jacque, spoke about National's planned \$5.00 increase in dues next July.

Good of the Legion:

It was brought to the members attention that female military veterans with medical issues are unaware of the process in filing for those benefits they have earned.

The speech given by Al Richards at the GHS Veterans Day Program received considerable ballyhoo at this Assembly.

Monthly Calendar Raffle: Winners

\$50 - Marlene Donahue

\$30 - Carol Arentz

\$25 - John Jozwowski

\$20 - Adam Arentz

\$15 - Colby Patton

\$10 - Jordan Berendt



December 2023 SAL News



Membership: We had three prospective members attend our meeting on 11/14. By the time the meeting was over, they all turned in their application and check to become members. With these additional members, our current roster is at 89 members. Dues are \$25 and should be paid as soon as possible. As of the last meeting, 50 members have paid their dues. By this time, you should have received a postcard in the mail regarding your dues. Your check, payable to "Sons of the American Legion", can be mailed to Paul Turowski, 1478 N Green Bay Rd, Grafton, WI 53024. Questions regarding membership should be directed to Paul Turowski @ 262-389-4645.

SAL Clothing: Silk Screen Specialists in Grafton is the place to go for all of our SAL clothing. Their address is 1231 11th Ave. Brian has order forms which you can fill out and drop off at Silk Screen. We also now have the option of buying a long sleeve shirt with the SAL logo. T-shirts are available for \$15. SAL baseball caps are also available for \$15. Questions regarding clothing should be directed to Brian Hadler @ 262-894-7465.

Veterans Assistance & Services: Now that we're approaching the winter season, keep in mind that our Grafton SAL will be offering short-term assistance to members of the Grafton Legion Post 355 who need temporary help with snow removal. If you know anyone that needs assistance, they can contact Ryan Rieck at: SAL.VAS.RYANRIECK@GMAIL.COM

Tracking volunteer hours: At the October meeting, we discussed developing a way to track our individual volunteer hours and provide an award for the top volunteer each year. Craig Butler offered to help with the project, but we need a couple more members to help with this committee. If you want to help, please email our Commander, Richard Rieck, at rieck3@gmail.com.

Camp American Legion: Fall clean-up took place on October 14th. Thank you to Corey Esselmann, Gary Helm, and Jimmy Proefrock for driving up there and removing the pier from the water and storing it for the winter.

SAL Beer Tasting: Event was held at Fire Ridge Golf Course on Thursday, October 26th. We had 91 paid attendees at the event. Profits from the event were approximately \$2,152. Thank you to the SAL members who attended and helped out during the night.

SAL Gun Raffle: The gun raffle is now up and running. Tickets are available from Dan McKelvey by calling him at 262-689-5112 or by email at GraftonSALGunRaffle@gmail.com. Tickets will also be available from Corey at Grafton Mobil. By the time you are reading this newsletter, you should have received a separate email with details on the raffle. Keep in mind that we will be selling a maximum of 200 tickets at \$20 each. The drawing will be held at the Grafton Legion Las Vegas Night on April 6th. We'll need everyone's help to sell the tickets. Please contact Dan McKelvey if you have any questions regarding the raffle.

Veteran's Day Dinner: The event was held on Saturday, November 11th at the Legion Post. The event was very well attended by veterans and spouses. As always, the veterans ate and drank for free all night thanks to the SAL and the auxiliary. As the evening progressed, we were entertained by some amazing (and not-so-amazing) karaoke singers.

Legion donation: The members voted to donate \$1000 to the Legion to help repair the refrigerated beer lines.

Mid-Winter Conference: This year's conference will be held in La Crosse on January 19th-21st. We would love to have a few members attend the conference this year. Our SAL will pay room costs for any attendees at the conference.





Social Media Coordinator: Are you tech savvy? Do you use Facebook? If you answered yes to these questions, you may be the perfect candidate for this position. The primary responsibilities of this position involve keeping our Facebook page up-to-date by posting upcoming events. Very easy job for the right person! If you're interested, please contact our commander, Dick Rieck, at rieck3@gmail.com.

Bartending help needed: The Legion needs occasional bartending help at some of their weekend events/parties. If you could donate a few hours it would be greatly appreciated. A bartending license is not needed. Please contact Al Richards if you're interested. His email address is: albeer1946@gmail.com

Legion Post meeting dinner: Volunteers are needed to serve the Post meeting dinner on the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00pm and dinner is at about 7:45pm.

December - Christmas Dinner

January - Neal & Chris

Do you have something that you want in the next SAL newsletter?

Contact Dan McKelvey at dmckelvey2038@gmail.com

Next SAL Meeting: 12/12/2023 @ 6:30pm



Down - Up, Down - Up !

You may wonder, under what circumstances, can you choose to lower your flag to half staff or not. Some people worry that the frequency of the gesture is causing it to lose its meaning. Flying flags at half-staff was done via haphazard traditions until President Eisenhower in 1954 laid out some basic rules in the U.S. Code Title 4, Chapter 1.

Who Is Required to Lower Flags to Half Staff?

The President may issue a proclamation to lower flags to half staff.

This applies to flags flown on federal grounds and US navy vessels.

Governors may also issue a proclamation.

Similarly, these apply only to flags flown at the state's government grounds.

Private citizens You may choose to comply with these proclamations. However, you are not required to do so; requiring this would violate your First Amendment rights.

Can I Lower the Flag on My Personal or Commercial Property?

You may also lower your flag to half staff to mourn the loss of a significant figure in your own community. For example, our Legion Post can lower our flags to half staff to mourn the loss of a Veteran. You are at full liberty to lower the flag on your private property to half staff.

The choice is up to you!



American Legion Auxiliary Rose-Harms Unit 355
December 2023 Newsletter

Cathy Brunnquell says "Thank You to all members who worked over Veterans Weekend dispersing poppies!" Cathy also Thanks all who helped with our Makers Market on November 18th! We had another very successful event and we're looking forward to next year's event.

Our membership chair Lora Linder reported that we have 104 paid and we are at 60%. Members please – remember that you are delinquent and not an active member if your dues are NOT paid by December 31, 2023!

Mel Nowak shared that Mrs. Helen Goetz donated 3 quilts valued at \$750.00 and 3 lap robes valued at \$75.00. And she spent 185 hours making them. We will be donating them to both Zablocki and Bouddica house. Thank you Mrs. Goetz for your very generous donation!

Remember please to keep clipping coupons and bringing them to our meetings or call/email the Coupon Chair **Patty Wollner (262-707-5485) pawollner@icloud.com to plan for pick up/delivery. Please note the expiration dates on all coupons. The Veterans have a 3-month window for usage.**

Marcus Gift Cards! These are absolutely one of the best gifts you can give and help your Auxiliary too! Our Unit actually makes 15% of all gift card sales. You have 1 more chance before Christmas so, **PLEASE contact our Marcus Chair, Laurie Schwalbe 414-659-6951**, the last order of the year will be Dec. 5, 2023. (You Will Have Your Marcus Order For Christmas) Thank you for your help!!

THE TIME HAS COME.....ARE YOU ROOTING FOR THE ARMY OR THE NAVY???

Well, come to the Lower Level of our Legion Post, on Saturday December 9th! The doors will open at noon and the game starts at 2:00. The event is **FREE**, we're having a Mexican Fiesta! All we ask is that you bring some black beans, refried beans, chopped green onions, jalapeno slices, chopped tomatoes or your own specialty appetizer. We are planning an amazing atmosphere, and The Army & Navy will be providing our entertainment! We would like you to RSVP to either Ria Marien 414-303-5611 or Mary Czerwinski 262-689-9391 by December 6th please! We're making chimichanga's and we would like a count. Our ladies will let you know what is needed. **THERE WILL BE A CASH BAR & MARGARITAS!**

Tuesday December 19th is our annual Auxiliary "Christmas Vacation" themed Party in the upper level of the Post.

December 19th, the doors open at 5:00 pm

Rose-Harms American Legion Post.

Dinner served at 6:00 pm

Menu:

Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Bean Casserole, Salad, Green Jello, and Dessert.

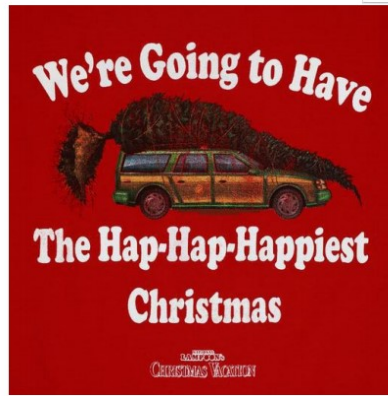
ALL FOR ONLY \$20.00 PER PERSON

Games begin after dinner!

If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a new \$20.00 minimum beautifully wrapped gift for under the Christmas tree.

RSVP. by December 15th to

sue@262-389-4644 or sueturowski@hotmail.com



Upcoming Events:

Tuesday – December 5th – Marcus orders Due

Tuesday – December 5th - Exec Board Meeting Lower Hall @6:30

DECEMBER 6TH – HAPPY ST NICK

Tuesday – December 12th - Bingo doors open at 6:00 pm

Tuesday – December 19th - Auxiliary Christmas Party (**Theme this year Christmas Vacation!**)

Saturday – December 9th – Army/Navy Game lower hall of Post. Doors open at 12:00 game 2:00.

DECEMBER 25TH – MERRY CHRISTMAS

Congratulations to our October 2023 Veteran of the month Doug Arentz!

Doug served in the United States Army from 1987 – 1995

Thank you so very much for your service Doug!



Happy Birthday to all members with December Birthday!

~ Merry Christmas ~

Sue Turowski, Secretary