

NEWSLETTER

SHELLSVILLE POST 9639 - 8926 JONESTOWN RD GRANTVILLE PA 17028-9524 - PHONE: 469-2195

COMMANDER - Glen Hoffer

2nd Qtr 2006-2007

LADIES AUX. PRES. - Dorothy Adams

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Dear Member,

Well here we are into the fall season. That means one thing, **Election Day**. The freedom to vote, and be able to live the way we do and say what we think. This came from the sacrifices of all veterans starting with the revolutionary war and even today's war on terrorism. To

honor their sacrifices **Vote on Nov. 7th**

I have heard some good comments about the bulletin board, which we installed to help keep you informed on things that come up between newsletters. Things like specials from the kitchen for the week, special events, and openings for Hershey Park volunteer workers.

One special event on the board is starting Sept 11th. On a trial basis we are going to be open on Mondays for Monday night football. The kitchen will be open, but with a limited menu, so come out and enjoy.

I have been a life member of the VFW since 1982 and a continuous member a few years before that. I always worked second shift and never got to go to any meetings until four plus years ago when I retired and transferred here. I was quite impressed with how things were run under Past Commanders Dennis Haines and Clarence Klinger. When you came to one of their meetings you could tell it was a VFW meeting. We have over six hundred VFW members but only about twenty-five come to the meetings. If you are a member and have some free time, come out on meeting nights enjoy a meal then come to the meeting and find out how the Post runs.

In closing remember to thank a veteran. God bless the Veterans, and God bless America.



Serving the Post and Community
Glen J. Hoffer, Commander

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Sisters,

I am writing this quarter's newsletter in the absence of our President. Please keep Dottie and Dick in your prayers.

We are proud to report approximately 65% of our membership has paid their dues so far. Be sure to get your dues in quickly. We also need new members, not only to make up for our lost sisters, but to ensure that we can continue to support our veterans and their families.

As Youth Activities Chairman, I want to take a moment to touch on our youth (monetary) award programs. Our **Patriot's Pen** written essay contest is for students in grades 6-8. This year's theme is "Citizenship in America". At the same time, the **Voice of Democracy** audio essay contest is running for students in grades 9-12. Its theme is "Freedom's Challenge". Entries for both of these programs must be submitted to the Post by October 31st. Coming in the Spring we also have the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art** program for students in grades 9-12. We also have ongoing programs to recognize teachers for instilling a sense of national pride in our youth. Contact any of our officers for more details.

Our next fundraiser will be a Ham Dinner on October 21st. This is a Major fundraiser for our Auxiliary and we need our sisters to help. Whether it is a donated homemade desert, an hour for set-up or clean-up, or several hours during the dinner, we need your help!

For many years we have been fortunate enough to depend on our "regulars". However, the list of "regulars" has gotten far too short. While we have a membership of close to 500 people, we only average 10 people at our meetings (3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM). We need everyone's participation to maintain our Auxiliary and our Post. Also, be sure that our contact information is current, especially your telephone number.



Loyally,
Linda Smith, Auxiliary Jr Vice President
and Youth Activities Chairman

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

It's a Great day to be an American!

As Veterans, many of us have been to foreign countries and have seen poverty, disease and starvation throughout the world. We have seen illiteracy and people without hope. We have been in countries where women are treated like property and children are left to fend for themselves. Yes, it's a Great day to be an American, in a country that allows our children to be educated and healthy; in a country that protects the rights of every individual regardless of race or religious beliefs. A country that has been born out of strong ethnic, and religious values, bringing from each citizen's "old" country those traditions and beliefs that strengthen this Country while shedding the yoke of poverty, disease, starvation and illiteracy. Yes, it's a great day to be an American.

In these times of political mud-slinging it is very easy to allow ourselves to become depressed. Each day, the "News" provides us with only negativity about war, terrorism, a bad economy, and even bad weather.

As Americans, let us all stand tall on the moral high-ground, supporting our sons and daughters in uniform who are promoting peace and freedom around the world, and our Nation.

On the home-front, support and thank the first-responders, our police, firefighters, and paramedics. Support and thank our teachers and doctors; and by all means support the countless volunteer organizations that help make America the greatest Nation in which to live.

The next time you feel depressed, stand up and say **"I am an American, and we are trying to make the world a better place for all mankind."**

Our Veterans have given you this Right.

On November 7th, get out and VOTE!

The continuation of this great Nation depends on the willingness of its loyal citizens to be involved.



**Yours in Comradeship,
Thomas Gordon, Quartermaster**

MEMBERSHIP

The 2006 membership of Eshleman-Pankake-Wolf, Post 9639 Veterans Of Foreign Wars totaled **655** Veterans. Additionally, there are **482** members of the Post's Ladies Auxiliary and **471** Associate and Social members of our Post Canteen. While these numbers may seem impressive, we continually strive to encourage our members to remain active in the Post's and Canteen's activities and to recruit new members. The more dedicated members we have, the more veterans', community, and youth programs we can support.

Please pay your 2007 dues, as soon as possible. Keeping track of dues payments is a monumental task, so please ensure your 2007 dues are paid by December 8th at the latest. This will ensure your 2007 membership card is sent to you before the end of the year.

Did **YOU** pay
your dues yet?



ACTIVE MEMBER DEATH BENEFITS

The Active Members Death Benefit will be reviewed and possibly changed at the October 26th Post meeting. Plan to attend.

VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND BUDDY POPPY FUNDRAISER

Starting Friday November 10th through the weekend, will constitute our fall Buddy Poppy Fundraiser. Post members will be manning a stand at Sam's Club and Wal-Mart on Grayson Road and K-Mart on Allentown Blvd. The Auxiliary anticipates manning the stand at Wal-Mart. At the stands our members will be giving adults a Buddy Poppy and the younger children a 4x6 inch flag. In return we ask for donations. This program helps our Post directly by the actual donations collected and indirectly it helps the Hospitalized Veterans who make the Poppies. This is our second biggest Fundraiser and goes a long way to further VFW programs. If you can help call the Post?

CANTEEN UPDATE

Dear Members,

Starting Monday September 11th the canteen will be open on Mondays from 4 PM - 11 PM and the kitchen will be open from 6 PM - 11 PM. We will only be running the regular menu, and a taco special. During Monday Night Football we will have Miller Lite draft for .75.

Recently a TV was donated to the canteen by Harry Morrow and installed by Harry and Pat Morrow and Bill Hoover. I would like to personally thank them for their generosity and time.

For our Associate and Social Members, your dues notices just came out. Return them early with your dues so we can get your new card mailed back to you.

October 7th at 9 AM we will need some help closing up the picnic woods for the season. If anyone has any time to help it would be greatly appreciated.

As always if you have any questions concerns or ideas to make the canteen better see myself or Greg and we will be more than happy to listen.

Ken Straub, Manager

Dates to Remember

10/7 - Woods Close - Up - 9 AM
10/9 - Columbus Day, Fly your Flag
10/14 - Fall Road Clean-Up - 6 PM
10/15 - Dauphin County Council Meeting - 2 PM
10/19 - Halloween Parade - 6 PM at Post
10/19 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 PM
10/21 - Ladies Auxiliary Ham Dinner - 4 PM
10/26 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
10/31 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
Nov - Sign up for the Children's Christmas Party
11/5 - 18th District Meeting - 2 PM - Steelton
11/7 - Election Day - GET OUT and VOTE
11/11 - Veterans Day - Fly your Flag
11/10-12 - Buddy Poppy Fundraiser - All Weekend
11/16 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 PM
11/22 - POST Active Meeting - Wednesday-7:30PM
11/23 - Thanksgiving - Canteen Closed
11/27 - Decorate Canteen for the Holidays
11/28 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
12/7 - Pearl Harbor Day - Fly your Flag
12/16 - Children's Christmas Party - 12-1 PM
12/21 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 PM
12/24 - Christmas Eve - Canteen Closing at 6 PM
12/25 - Christmas - Canteen Closed
12/26 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
12/28 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
12/31 - New Years Eve Party
1/1 - Happy New Years - May it bring us
"Peace, Good Health and Much Happiness"

FAMILY PICNIC

This year we had another great picnic. The weather couldn't have been any nicer. There were 90 people in attendance and thanks to the generosity of some very special VFW Friends there were plenty of prizes to be won. Those special friends were:

Bradford Village Beer & Soda
Crossroads Café
Holiday Inn, Grantville
John M. Herr & Sons Feed Mill
Jonestown Bank, Grantville
Karns Quality Food
Kokomos Sports Bar & Grill
L & N Beverage Distributors
Ron's Beer Depot
Seaman's Market
St Thomas Roasters
The Tire Mart
The Feed Store
Wachovia Bank, Harrisburg
W & L Distributors

These businesses supported us, lets support them.

Ladies Auxiliary HAM DINNER

Oct 21, 2006
4 PM - 7 PM

Adults \$7.00 Kids (4-12) \$4.00
Under 4 Free

Come out and enjoy a great Ham Dinner



CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 16th

12 PM to 1 PM Ages 10 and Under

All children attending the Christmas Party
MUST be pre-registered by December 1st.
See a bartender to register.

Chances on a Wagon Full of Toys
\$1.00 per chance or \$5.00 for six chances

VOTERS REFERENDUM ACT NO 29 OF 2006

The ballot question asks the voters of Pennsylvania whether they approve of the Commonwealth borrowing \$20 million to create a fund for the payment of compensation to veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Persian Gulf Conflict and were Pennsylvania residents at the time of such service. The Persian Gulf Conflict was fought in 1990 and 1991 following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

If approved, payments will be made from the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Compensation Fund in the following amounts: (1) up to \$525 to a veteran of the conflict; (2) \$5,000 to a veteran who was a prisoner of War in the conflict; and (3) \$5,000 to the survivor of a veteran who died in the conflict or from a wound, disease, or injury sustained during the conflict.

Previous war veterans received a state bonus why not these, vote YES on Election Day.

DAILY DRAWING

In accordance with the Small Games of Chance Law, qualifying organizations may conduct members' sign-in daily drawings. We have decided to keep the cost at .25 cents per member. When you sign in the daily drawing book, please pay the bartender. Our payout is 100% of the monies accumulated for this drawing. If a member had not been at the Canteen, and had not signed the daily drawing book on the day that the member's number had been drawn, the Act allows for a carryover of the accumulated prize monies. This would allow for a possible accumulative prize with carryovers of several hundred dollars.

Due to Internal Revenue Service regulations, prize winnings of \$600.00 or more would require the Canteen to withhold taxes from the winners. This is the reason the Board of Directors decided that the maximum prize payout on the daily drawing would be \$500.00.

In accordance with the Small Games of Chance Law, the maximum individual prize winnings, in pull-tabs and punchboards, is also \$500.00.

15 WEEK FUNDRAISER

Hey, it's almost that time again. We anticipate having the tickets available by Thanksgiving. As always tickets will be distributed to those people who sold them last year. We may be able to accommodate one or two new sellers this year, so if you are interested contact either Randy Eckert or Lloyd Eshleman.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Currently the Post has 4 members deployed in the Gulf region. We anticipate showing our support to the troops by sending out care packages early in November. Drop off your items the last week of October.

YELLOW VOLUNTEER CHIPS

The post encourages volunteerism. Post members who volunteer at the post receive yellow volunteer chips. Each chip entitles you to a drink of your choice. You can also earn chips by attending certain meetings. If the time is great enough the post also provides a meal.



Lower Dauphin Football Team Uses Our Tank

This year the Lower Dauphin Football program booklet is using a military theme. We offered the use of our tank for the back drop of the photo shoot. They will also be assisting us in collecting articles for our holiday care packages.

MONTHLY RAFFLE

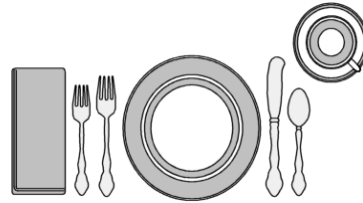
The post runs a monthly raffle ticket. These tickets cost \$5.00 and are sold by several members of the post. The winning number for this ticket is based on the Pennsylvania Daily Lottery Evening Drawing. Support your post and purchase a ticket. Better yet sign-up to sell the tickets. If you have a lucky number and want to receive that ticket number each month, let us know, it may be available.

Upcoming Friday Night Specials (subject to change)

Check The Menu Board for Daily Specials

Oct 6 - Baked Meatloaf / Shrimp & Broccoli Fettuccini
13 - Chicken Supreme / 10 oz Rib Eye & Shrimp
20 - Mahi Mahi / Beef Stew
27 - Greek Chicken / Fresh Stuffed Flounder
Nov 3 - Filet Mignon / Baked Haddock
10 - BBQ Ribs / Broiled Crab Cakes
17 - Country Fried Steak / Seafood Fettuccini
24 - Jumbo Shrimp Scampi / Chicken Croquettes
Dec 1 - Broiled Swordfish / Pot Roast
8 - Broiled Flounder / 16 oz Porterhouse Steak
15 - Cajun Pork Chops / Coconut Shrimp
22 - Broiled Seafood / Baked Lasagna
29 - NY Strip & Crab Cakes / Garlic Roast Beef

**COME OUT & ENJOY
A GREAT MEAL**



Kitchen Hours
Monday
6 PM to 10 PM
Tue & Wed
5 PM to 9 PM
Thursday
4 PM to 9 PM
Friday
4 PM to 10 PM
Saturday
Noon to 9 PM
Sunday
9 AM to 12 PM
4 PM to 8 PM

Subject: Christmas Poem

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the mantle, just boots filled with sand, on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary, I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my god, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.
I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night, this guardian of honors so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered,
"Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

Eshleman Pankake Wolf
Shellsville VFW Post 9639
8926 Jonestown Road
Grantville PA 17028-9524

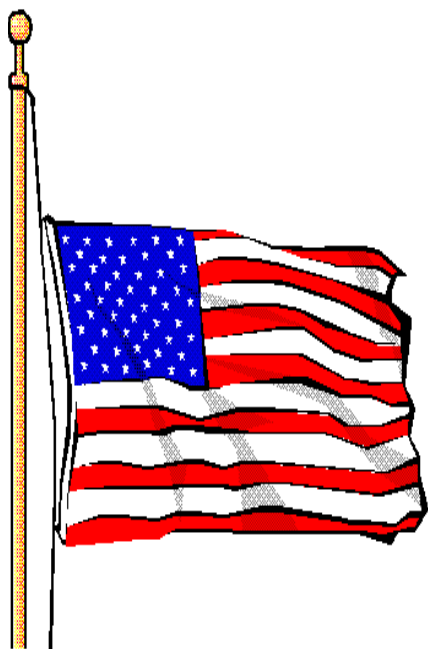
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRANTVILLE PA 17028
PERMIT No. 8

Address service requested



Lest We Forget

Departed Comrades - Sisters - Post Members



John H. Clay
Ruth E. Dechert
Gerald C. Fellon
David H. Goddard
Charles B. Hoon Jr.
Delores R. Metz
Lyle G. Neidich
Mary E. Nye