

NEWSLETTER

Shellsville Post 9639 - 8926 Jonestown Road Grantville Pa 17028-8654 - Phone: (717) 469-2195

COMMANDER - Fred Hechler

4th Qtr 2008-2009

LADIES AUX. PRES. - Linda Smith

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Dear Members,

Winter is over and spring is upon us once again. That means warmer weather, picnics, and mowing grass. I know I am looking forward to the warmer weather like others.

I would like all our members to please take the time to read the entire news letter. There is a lot of information enclosed; such as upcoming events, volunteers needed, the kitchen, and awards won by the Post along with our newsletter editor.

Also I would like to thank everyone for their patience and suggestions to the post officers and board members. I know it would be nice to have the kitchen open again and we are working hard to make that a reality once again. I want the membership to know that we do listen and take in all that is written and said to us on all concerns along with compliments.

During this 2009 calendar year we will continue to hang sign-up sheets or flyers for various types of help, so please keep a look out for them. If you can spare the time we can always use the help. Additional support is always appreciated.

I would still like to encourage our younger active members to come out to the monthly Post meeting. The meeting is held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM.

Everyone be safe and I hope to see you out at the Post. Don't forget to remember our troops in your prayers that they are protected and have a safe return.



Fredrick W. Hechler,
Post Commander

PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Sisters,

Our April 16th meeting is a VERY important meeting. Most important, nominations/election of officers must be held. As I have been saying, we need Sisters to offer their time for an office and/or chairmanship(s). We already have some empty offices, some are willing to continue their current positions, and many would like to

"retire". If all of the offices are not filled, steps may have to begin to disband our Charter.

The President and both Vice Presidents are responsible to conduct meetings and represent our Auxiliary at various meetings/events. The Treasurer must document all financial transactions including the processing of dues. The Trustees must audit the books/records of the Treasurer and Secretary quarterly. Prayers are provided by the Chaplain. The Guard and Conductress perform various simple tasks during the meeting. I must also appoint a Secretary and a Patriotic Instructor.

We also need to vote on an increase to our dues and/or our application fee. From our current \$14 yearly dues, \$9.60 must be sent to HQ and another \$2 is expected for the Cancer Aid & Research Fund. Even though Life Members are not required to make any yearly payments, the Auxiliary must forward \$.10 to HQ for each, plus the \$2 Cancer Aid & Research is also expected.

I also want to assure you that our May 9th Ham Dinner will be held as scheduled. Sister Linda Morrow has agreed to be our cook and will be pulling out her old recipes (and connections) to ensure a delicious home cooked meal. Deserts, set-up, serving and clean-up staffs will all be needed.

We are considering bringing back doing craft projects (holiday or patriotic) on a non-meeting evening or weekend. Anyone interested?



Linda Smith,
President

The Best Vitamin for Making Friends
*** B1 ***

Dear Members,

I'd like to devote my column to the "V" word. No, not Veterans, or Victory, or Valor, but the word Volunteer. Our VFW Post is made up of over 1,500 members; Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary, Associate, and Social, but where are all the members when our many Post programs are planned and performed? There are fewer than 2% (30 members) that Volunteer to perform 95% of our programs.

In January, who was at the Post Canteen to help take down the Christmas decorations? In February, who visited a Veteran at the VA hospital? In March, who helped with the preparation for the annual community Easter Egg Hunt? Every month there is a VFW function or program that needs your Volunteer support.

On Saturday, April 18th, who will help set-up the picnic grounds for the summer? On May 22nd through May 25th, who will help distribute Buddy Poppies? These are just a few of the many upcoming functions that need a few hours of your Volunteer support.

If you say you have never been asked to help, then this is an invitation to each one of our members, Veteran, Auxiliary, Associate, and Social, to become involved with your VFW Post activities.

We need You, if we are to continue with our many programs to support our veterans, deployed service members, post canteen members, community and our youth.

Some tasks are physical, like moving 90 picnic tables out of the pavilion at the picnic grounds. Some tasks are easy, like placing labels on the newsletters, or decorating the Canteen for holidays, or helping with road clean-up; but one thing is for sure, we all have a good time and friendships are made. I believe every member has a talent that can benefit our Post. So Volunteer to give a few hours to your VFW Post programs. Please pick up the phone and call me at my home 534-2478.

Get involved, make some new friends, and have some fun!



Yours in Comradeship,
Tom Gordon, Post Quartermaster

Dear VFW Post and Canteen Members,

In the last newsletter, I informed you that the Post Canteen's kitchen was being closed on January 1, 2009 due to increased operating costs and the current economic conditions. The Canteen Board of Directors did not make this decision without many long hours of deliberation and serious consideration as to how this closure would affect your support of the VFW Post and its support of Veterans and deployed service members, Community, and Youth programs.

During the past three months, the Canteen Board of Directors have met many times in both formal and informal meetings to discuss the needed improvements to our Canteen operations, in order to provide the membership with the best food, drink, and service, at reasonable prices. We have heard from our membership, both positive and negative, and their various recommendations.

As of the day I am writing this article, I can not say the kitchen is open; however, I can say that the Board of Directors have been working diligently to re-open the kitchen, as soon as possible, with improvements throughout our Canteen operations.

As soon as the Canteen Board of Directors determines that the Canteen operations can maintain financial solvency and adequate staffing, the kitchen will be re-opened. We are in negotiations on a daily basis to make this happen. Please be patient. Once the kitchen is re-opened, we will once again publish the evening specials in the VFW quarterly newsletters and post the kitchen opening on our marquee in front of the Post Home. In order to keep the kitchen operation open, we hope the membership utilizes the Canteen as often as possible, bring guests along for a meal, and encourage friends to obtain membership.

We appreciate that our members are supporting the VFW Post and Canteen through these challenging times. The Shellsville VFW Canteen is a private club, and is only as good as we collectively support it. Please continue to support YOUR club.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Tom Gordon, Canteen Treasurer



Best Newsletter in PA

We put a lot of money and effort into our post's quarterly newsletter. That effort was just recently recognized as it was selected #1 in the medium size post category in the State of Pennsylvania. It is now going forward for consideration in the National VFW Post Publication Contest.

Entries are judged on the quality and quantity of information presented as well as layout, writing, grammar and the overall usefulness of the publication to our membership.

Our newsletter editor Randy Eckert puts a lot of time and effort into these publications. Anyone with anything newsworthy let Randy know.

Dates to Remember

- 4/1 - Easter Egg Stuffing / Newsletter Labeling 6 PM
- 4/11 - Road Clean-Up - 9 AM
Coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 in Canteen
- 4/11 - Easter Egg Hunt - 1 PM Start
- 4/12 - Easter - Canteen Closed
- 4/16 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00 PM
- 4/18 - Picnic Woods Opening - 9 AM
- 4/18 - Soft Ball Season Opening Ceremony - 9 AM
- 4/19 - Dauphin County Meeting - Gratz - 2 PM
- 4/19 - 25 - Salute to Volunteers Week
- 4/23 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 4/23 - Canteen Meeting - Following Post Meeting
- 4/29 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 5/3 - 18th District Meeting - Lebanon 2 PM
- 5/9 - Auxiliary Ham Dinner - 4 PM - 7 PM
- 5/10 - Mothers Day
- 5/13 - Veterans River Boat Cruise - 10 AM
- 5/16 - Armed Forces Day
- 5/20 - Place Flags at Cemeteries - Wednesday 6 PM
- 5/21 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00 PM
- 5/22 - 25 - Poppy Fund Raiser - All Weekend
- 5/25 - Memorial Day Ceremonies & Celebration
- 5/27 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 5/28 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 5/28 - Canteen Meeting - Following Post Meeting
- 6/7 - 15 Week Picnic - Noon - Canteen Closed
- 6/10 - Veterans River Boat Cruise - 10 AM
- 6/13 - Road Clean-Up 6 PM
- 6/18 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00 PM
- 6/21 - Fathers Day - Hug your Father
- 6/24 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 6/25 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 6/25 - Canteen Meeting - Following Post Meeting

Ladies Auxiliary Ham Dinner



May 9, 2009

4 PM to 7 PM

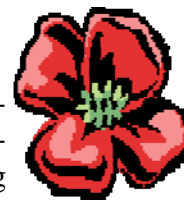
Adults \$8.50 Kids (4-12) \$4.50
Under 4 Free

Prestigious Honor of "All-American Post"

It hasn't happened yet, but the Eshleman-Pankake-Wolf (Shellsville) Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9639 is being considered for the prestigious honor of being named an "All-American" Post. Annually, the VFW State Commander nominates those Posts that have fulfilled the mandatory requirements and support the many Veterans programs necessary for consideration of this high honor. Our Post has never received this National honor even though we have been named an "All-State" Post many times over the Post's 62-year history.

Being named an "All-American" Post would truly be an honor, since only 2% of all the VFW Posts in the Nation are awarded this honor. This truly shows that the members of VFW Post 9639 support our Veterans and deployed service members, as well as our Community, and Youth. The "All-American" Posts will be named later this year. Details will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

Buddy Poppies



During the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25, members of our Post will be distributing **Buddy Poppies** and small American flags to the public at Harrisburg's K-mart, Wal-Mart, and Sam's Club. Please contact Post Quartermaster Tom Gordon, at 534-2478, if you can provide a few hours of your time in support of this very important program. Donation of your time would be greatly appreciated. The distribution of Buddy Poppies during Memorial Day weekend and Veteran's Day weekend is the Post's largest source of income to support our 18 Veteran programs. Please give a few hours of your time to support our Veterans and deployed service members through the distribution of Buddy Poppies.

Post Honor Guard and Color Guard

The Shellsville VFW Post has a very active Honor Guard and Color Guard. During the past year, we had 24 Veteran members of our Post past away and our 11-member Honor Guard provided the military honors at the Veterans' funerals, when requested. Additionally, our 4-member Color Guard has also attended the graveside services, and each year leads the Grantville Holiday parade. Recently, a few of the members of our Honor Guard and Color Guard have had to retire from active participation due to health issues; therefore, we are looking for a few good members to step up and fill our ranks. Wouldn't it be a shame if we could not provide military honors to a fallen comrade, or lead the holiday parade with a military presence? All members of our Post are welcome to be part of our Honor Guard or Color Guard, and we provide all the training necessary. It is important that we have a pool of members available to provide these military honors when requested.

If you would be willing to be a member of this Team, please stop by or call the Post at 469-2195 and speak to Assistant Quartermaster Randy Eckert.

15 Week Raffle / Picnic And Fundraiser

This fundraiser is already in full swing. Drawings are being held every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM. Come out to the drawings and try to punch out your own number. The final drawing will be at 3:00 PM at the raffle picnic on June 7, 2009. The picnic is for raffle ticket holders only. As I am writing this article there are still a few remaining tickets, but they will not last long. This raffle is the post's biggest fundraiser.

Food will be served from Noon until 5:00 PM. No food will be served during the raffle drawing. We ask that you take all you can eat, BUT eat all you take. Please, No Tables Reserved unless you stay with the table.

Increase in Daily Book

At the request of our membership, the Canteen's Daily Book has been increased from \$.25 to \$.50 and the maximum prize increased from \$500 to \$1,000.



Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 11th

At 1 PM sharp the Grantville Volunteer Fire Company will sound the siren on their Fire Truck.

This will start the hunt for Plastic Eggs filled with candy and other surprises. There are separate age groups to make the event fair to all. Each group will have a dozen numbered eggs that are turned in for prizes appropriate for their age group. The event is open to the public.

The Easter Bunny will arrive on the Fire truck and will greet the children after the hunt.

Last year over \$450 was spent on the event. To help with the costs there is a donation jar at the hunt and in the canteen. We hope that the 170 children had a great time. The plastic eggs are cleaned and reused.

\$10 SUMMER RAFFLE & FAMILY PICNIC

This year we are again having a raffle with our family picnic, on August 9, 2009. We are printing 1000 tickets. There will be 50 prizes drawn and each ticket will have three chances to win. The tickets will be available at the 15 Week Picnic. If you are interested in selling these tickets contact one of the canteen officers.

HERSHEY ENTERTAINMENT & RESORTS

The Post has again registered for the volunteer help program with Hershey Entertainment and Resorts. Volunteers are normally needed at Hershey Park, but sometimes some are needed at the Giant Center, the Stadium, and High Meadow Campground. If you are interested in receiving a free park day-pass, contact the post to find out when help is needed and when vouchers are being awarded. You will get a voucher and the Post gets your wages. If you are working at the Giant Center you will be issued a parking pass, to park behind the Giant Center and enter the staff entrance.

Every Day is Memorial Day

Today we remember
A grateful Nation recalls
Our Men and Women
Who paid the price
Of freedom for us all

For those of us who
Served beside them
Every day is Memorial Day
We can't let their memories fade
We were touched by their loss

Their life touched ours
Changing and helping us
Becoming who we are
Grateful for what we have
Freedom at Home

For those left at home
You gave us your sons and daughters
Husbands and wives
Fathers and Mothers
Brothers and sisters
Friends and lovers
Thank you for sharing them with us

We miss them all
We won't let them be forgot
That is why each of us who have been in battle knows
We can never ever forget
That Every Day is Memorial Day
by: Kerry 'Doc' Pardue



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

George Bedzela (Impo)

Samuel C. Bower

Susan J. Champ

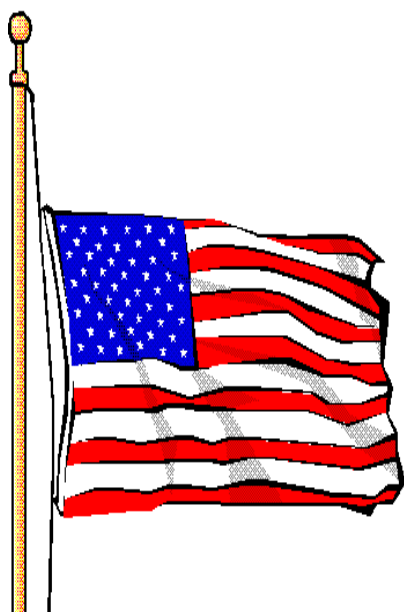
James L. Hiles

Donald E. McGeary

Michael Ondeck

Martha M. Reed

Ernest P. Zserai



America is number One thanks to our Veterans