

NEWSLETTER

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

COMMANDER - Glen Hoffer

Summer 2009

LADIES AUX. PRES. - Linda Smith

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Dear Members,

First as your past District 18 Commander and current Sr. Vice I would like to thank everyone who helped our Post and our District this past year. The District and Post accomplished so many things that could not have been done without your hard work; we want to con-

tinue that. If you know an EMT, Firefighter, Police, Teacher, HealthCare worker, or Volunteer who you think should be recognized for their work and could be our entry at districts please see me or give me a letter with the information and your name and phone number so I can contact you.

I think we all owe Fred Hechler a big thank you for the great job he has done the last two years as your Post Commander. I am looking forward to continuing that success in this new year, but it can only be done with your help. I have seen several new faces helping with the different events this past year, which shows that you do care about what we, at the Post, are doing for the Veterans and the community.

I know from being on the Board of Directors for the past four years that all of our decisions were not well received. But they were made with a lot of time, thought and dollar figures before acted upon. No one on the Board would want the Post or Canteen to go down for the count under their watch, so just remember when changes are made it's not without a lot of thought and information.

One thing that changed since the last newsletter is the re-opening of the kitchen. So come back and try some good food and enjoy the Post and friends of old.



Serving the District, Post and Community
Glen J. Hoffer, Commander

PAST COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that my time as your Post Commander is ending. As I look back and remember the time spent participating in the many events of this Post, I realize that I have become a better person because of it. I have paid my respects by taking part in honor guard services for our veterans, participated in Flag Retirement Ceremonies upholding the

honor of our flag, and spent time at the Canteen meeting many members, families and guests. I will continue to do all these things. I now realize that yes, there is a time to relax with friends, but there is also another side that many within the VFW organization never take the time to see. Until I took the time to become an officer, I did not realize all the ways that the Post interacts with the community. I just mentioned a few, there are many more. As in past newsletters, I am again encouraging our younger active members to attend the monthly Post meetings to learn about all we do for the community and how you can take part. Yes, it takes time to volunteer, but trust me, the reward you get back when someone says "Thank You", is well worth the time spent in return. The Post meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

As we continue moving forward, I would like everyone to support our new incoming commander. He has a lot to add to the Post as he ends his term as the 18th District Commander. He has traveled to many posts to see how they operate and I am sure he will bring new ideas to this Post.

In closing, I would like to take the time to THANK everyone who has helped to make my two years as your commander memorable ones.

Everyone be safe and I hope to see you 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,
Past Post Commander



Dear Sisters,

Once again the Shells-ville VFW membership comes through. Thanks to all of the people that stepped up to offer their additional assistance in keeping our Auxiliary going. Members came forward to help make our Ham Dinner an outstanding success. Special

thanks to Linda Morrow for ALL of her work in acquiring and preparing the food and to the men for their assistance. A special welcome and thank you is also extended to Margaretmary Houck and Nancy Wallish for accepting elected positions. It is so nice to have some "new blood" in the ranks.

At our May meeting we made some major decisions. First, we are keeping the membership entrance fee at \$4. Second, we are increasing our yearly dues to \$16 (effective for our new year starting July). Third, we will continue to do a drawing for two free life memberships at the end of the calendar year.

Even though our Programs are not officially designated until late September, please start considering what program/projects you can participate in or chair. If you have any suggestions to improve our Auxiliary, tell an officer, or better yet, come to a meeting and present it to your fellow Sisters. Give any changes in contact information to the Auxiliary as quickly as possible. Keep collecting Box Tops for Education (National Home), Campbell labels (Scotland School), and aluminum can pop tops (Ronald McDonald House).

I am still looking for craft project ideas (to be done separately from our meetings).

Thank you to everyone that helped make our 15-week picnic bake sale a success.

You can't change the past
but you can ruin the present
by worrying over the future.



Linda Smith,
President

Members of VFW Post 9639,

It's time to take **Pride** in our accomplishments during the past year under the leadership of Past Commander Fred Hechler, and to look forward towards the upcoming year under Commander Glen Hoffer. During the past year we have not only provided benefits for our Veterans and deployed service members, but additionally, we have supported our local Community and our Youth. Listed below are a few of the programs and benefits we have provided and activities that we supported during our past year, and you can see just how involved we are, and how beneficial we are in our Community.

Post Veteran Members Support:

- Veterans' Death Benefits
- Veterans' funeral Honor Guard
- Flags for gravesites

Veterans Support:

- VAMC Veterans' River Cruises
- VAMC Veterans' Birthday Parties
- VAMC Senators Baseball Games
- VFW National Home for Orphans
- PA Scotland School for Veterans' Orphans
- VFW Homeless Veterans' Fund

Deployed Soldier Support:

- Buddy Poppies
- Care packages for deployed soldiers
- Operation Uplink – Phone cards
- USO

Community and Youth Support:

- East and West Hanover Youth Baseball
- East Hanover Youth Football
- East Hanover Community Easter Egg Hunt
- Grantville Fire Company
- Grantville Food Pantry
- Adopt-A-Road - Jonestown Road, Sandbeach Road and Manada Gap Road, clean-up
- Arthritis Foundation
- American Diabetes Association
- Hospice of Central PA

These are but a few of the many programs we support.



Be proud and Support your VFW
Tom Gordon, Post Quartermaster





Dear VFW Post Canteen Members,

In the last newsletter, I informed you that due to increased operating costs and the current economic conditions, the Post Canteen’s kitchen was closed. **I am happy to inform you that the kitchen is once again open for evening meals and Sunday brunch.**

Since other articles in the newsletter discuss the kitchen operations, I will devote this article to the “laws” that the VFW Canteen must obey as a private club, in order to retain our licenses for liquor service, food sales, and gambling of Small Games of Chance.

First, **in order to retain our liquor license we may only sell alcoholic beverages to members of the VFW Canteen.** This includes Active members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, members of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, and Social members of our VFW Canteen. By law, social membership in another VFW Post’s Canteen is not transferable and cannot be honored in our Post’s Canteen. This is why all members of our Canteen are issued a VFW Post 9639 Canteen Inc. membership card. This is also why all alcoholic beverages must be purchased by our Canteen members for their guests. If our Canteen staff were to sell an alcoholic beverage to a non-member of the VFW Canteen, it would be a violation of the PA Liquor Code, and would subject the server and the Canteen to fines and a possible revocation of our liquor license. For this reason, our Canteen staff will ask to see your Canteen membership card prior to serving alcoholic drinks. Please understand that they are only doing their job to protect themselves and the VFW Canteen.

Additionally, now that the kitchen operation is leased to Manada Hill Inn Inc., Canteen members and their guests may purchase food, but the general public cannot enter the VFW Canteen and purchase food. This is a private club and if we were to serve the general public, the VFW Canteen would be required to be “smoke-free” to be in compliance with Pennsylvania’s “Clean Air Act”. Our Active VFW Post membership elected to maintain our VFW Post Canteen as a smoking facility; therefore, as a private club, we may not be open to the public and permit smoking in any part of the Post Canteen.

By law, the Canteen may allow certain functions to be open to the public, such as the Ladies Auxiliary Ham dinners or the renting of the banquet room for a wedding reception, birthday party, or funeral wake; however, during these functions open to the public or privately rented, the entire Canteen must be “smoke-free”.

Additionally, the Canteen’s House Rules are posted on the wall in the Post Canteen in order to ensure that the Canteen is an enjoyable club for our members and guests.

I hope this clarifies any misunderstanding as to why certain policies are enforced. In order to keep the kitchen operation open, we hope our Canteen membership utilizes the Canteen as often as possible, bring guests along for a meal, and encourage friends to obtain memberships.

We appreciate that our members are supporting the VFW Post and Canteen. The Shellsville VFW Canteen is only as good as our membership collectively supports it.

Thank you for continuing to support YOUR club.

If you have any questions concerning membership or the laws mentioned above, please call me at my home .

Tom Gordon, Post Quartermaster
534-2478

THE MANADA HILL INN, INC. Serving at the Shellsville VFW Post 9639

The staff of the Manada Hill Inn, Inc. would like to thank the Board of Directors for this opportunity to operate the food service at your club. We are enjoying our experience as we continue to enhance our food and service for you. We anticipate a successful partnership with you and are excited at the prospect of the coming months and years.

We are currently planning more nightly specials and functions. The following list is a portion of what we plan, and other specials will be added. Remember, we have different board specials nightly in addition to those advertised. Also, think of us when you need a special party or personal catering. We do it all!

Again, we thank you for your support and look forward to serving you often.

Sincerely and in service,
Grant Kyler and Mike Lawyer
The Manada Hill Inn, Inc.

- Fri. July 10 - BBQ Baby Back Ribs \$11.95
 - Wed. July 15 - All you can eat Spaghetti and Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread \$6.25
 - Sat. July 18 - Our two Month Anniversary Buffet. A special Buffet to thank the membership for your support. - Prime Rib, Baked Ham, Almond Chicken, Fresh Haddock, Sweet and Sour Meat Balls and all the trimmings. Only \$14.95 for adults and \$6.25 for children.
 - Fri. July 24 - New England Fish Fry, Pub Battered North Atlantic Whitefish, French Fries, Cole Slaw \$8.95
 - Sat. Aug 1 - Fried Oysters, French Fries, Cole Slaw ...\$9.95
- We will be posting information for an indoor tailgate buffet in early Sept., our Oktoberfest Celebration in October, and a Coal Region Night in November.

Post Officers 2009 - 2010

Commander..... Glen Hoffer
Senior Vice Commander..... Daniel Stefanowich
Junior Vice Commander..... Gerry Ortiz
Quartermaster..... Thomas Gordon
Adjutant..... Clifford Kreiser
Judge Advocate..... Dave Kyle
Chaplain..... Mike Kreiser
Surgeon..... Richard Adams
Trustee 3 Year..... Clifford Kreiser
Trustee 2 Year Gary Shuler
Trustee 1 Year..... Ray Carter

Post Auxiliary Officers

President..... Linda Smith
Senior Vice President..... Margaret M Houck
Junior Vice President..... Dorothy Adams
Treasurer..... Georgia Giddings
Secretary..... Georgia Giddings
Chaplain..... Arlene Hetrick
Conductress..... Edith Shuler
Guard..... Nancy Wallish
Trustee 3 Year..... Diane Suhr
Trustee 2 Year..... Jeannine Spitleer
Trustee 1 Year..... Linda Morrow

Canteen Board of Directors

Chairman..... 4 Yr Fredrick Hechler
Vice Chairman 3 Yr Mike Kreiser
Recording Secretary 1 Yr Randy Eckert
Member 2 Yr Richard Grubb

Dates to Remember

7/4 - Independence Day - Fly Your Flag
7/8 - Veterans River Boat Cruise - 10 AM
7/16 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00 PM
7/23 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
7/23 - Canteen meeting following the Post meeting
7/29 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
8/5 - Road Clean-Up - 6 PM
8/9 - 18th District Meeting - Gratz - 2 PM
8/9 - Family Picnic - 12 - 5 PM - Canteen Closed
8/12 - Veterans River Boat Cruise - 10 AM
8/20 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00 PM
8/26 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
8/27 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
8/27 - Canteen meeting following the Post meeting
9/9 - Veterans River Boat Cruise - 10 AM
9/17 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00 PM
9/24 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
9/30 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
9/30 - Newsletter Labeling 6 PM

FINANCIAL SUPPORT NEEDED

In the Quartermaster's Report I have listed many of the programs our VFW Post supports. As members of this fine organization, we should all be proud that we provide support to our veterans, currently deployed service members, our local community, and our youth. I hope ALL members support the programs through our four primary fund-raisers.

- **Annual 15-week raffle and June picnic - \$15**
- **10-week Summer raffle & Family picnic - \$10**
- **Monthly Post raffle tickets - \$5**
- **Buddy Poppy distribution - donations**

You may purchase raffle tickets from various members of the Post or at the Post Canteen from our staff.

Please support our fund-raisers to ensure the continuation of our Post's many worthwhile programs. Thank You for your support.

\$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 are available at the Bar or designated sellers. If you are interested in selling these tickets contact one of the canteen officers.

BUDDY POPPY DISTRIBUTION

During this past Memorial Day weekend, 10 of our active members volunteered their time to distributed approximately **3,500 Buddy Poppies** to the public at Harrisburg K-Mart and Sam's Club. During the Memorial Day weekend the distribution of Buddy Poppies to the adults and small American flags to the children brought in \$4,600 in donations. The Buddy Poppy distribution, during Memorial Day weekend and Veterans' Day weekend, is the Post's second largest source of income to support our Veterans' programs.

Thank You to the 10 members who volunteered from 4 to 16 hours of their time during the Memorial Day weekend, and **Thank You** to all who donated and wore the Buddy Poppies in remembrance of our fallen veterans.

We will be distributing Buddy Poppies again in November on Veteran's Day weekend, and another 8 or 10 volunteers would surely help share the workload.

Tom Gordon, Post Quartermaster

HOW TO RUIN YOUR POST...

- Don't ever attend a Post meeting.
- If you do come, don't get there on time and don't pay attention.
- Don't support the work being done by the officers and other members.
- Don't accept an office and don't congratulate others on their good work.
- Don't attend committee meetings if you get appointed to a work group.
- Don't join in when others roll up their sleeves to hold events and membership out reach.
- Don't pay your dues early so your comrades have to chase you down.
- Don't bother about getting new members. Let the Commander or Adjutant do it.
- Don't take corrective actions when your home association tries to run the Post.
- Don't remind others that only regular VFW members can serve on the associations board.
- Don't give anything back to the Post while enjoying membership benefits.
- Don't cooperate with other members and officers, but expect them to cooperate with you.
- Don't pitch in when volunteers are needed; just blame the officers for failed programs.
- Don't reach out to invite younger members to join your post.
- Don't call or visit members who have not renewed their dues.
- Don't welcome new members and don't invite them into your family of veterans.
- Don't make changes to your post that will make your facilities and events family friendly.
- Don't ask new and younger members to take on a leadership role in you post.

...But YOU Can Help Build a Future for Your Post

Just remove the "Don't from these statements to do the right things that give your Post a strong future. Remember, your VFW Post did not create itself. Running a Post takes involvement from all members who themselves benefit from the VFW. By serving each other through the VFW, veterans of all ages can help keep the VFW as the most elite Combat Veterans organization, which will leave a legacy for tomorrow's veterans.

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

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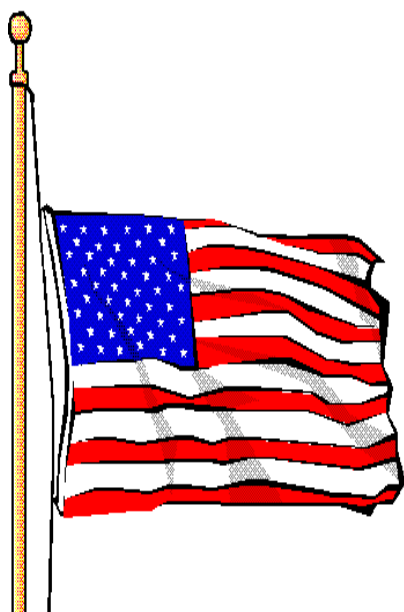


Address service requested



Lest We Forget

Departed Comrades - Sisters - Post Members



Hilda M. Enders
Charles J. Else
Donald E. Henry Sr.

America is number One thanks to our Veterans