



# THE LEGION POST

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 9

## 2008-2009 OFFICERS

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Greetings,

Our September Business meeting was very positive- we had a pot luck supper, followed by two of our Badger Boys candidates and their impressions of what the week entailed in June. Drew Egan and Jens Arneson gave us a short synopsis of their experience at the Badger Boys State and their very short week dealing with the gout!

As you may have heard, the Legion and VFW are planning a city-wide vet-

## Commanders

eran's event, most likely to be held in November. The committees have been formed, along with the Auxiliaries, to come up with something special. Watch your news letter for more information. If you have any ideas, let us know.

Have you paid your membership yet? If not, please do so at your earliest chance. Let's have our Post at 100% before November. We are very close at this time and remember, we go from June-June on our membership. We have an excellent record- let's keep it going!

Comrades, would you like to make some points with your Loved one?! (Got your attention now!) On September 24 our

SEPTEMBER 2008

Auxiliary will be working at CULVER'S serving during the lunch and dinner hours. This has been a successful fund raiser for them, as they receive a percentage of the day's proceeds. Show your support to the Auxiliary and a local business.

We have a breakfast coming up on September 21. The survey that was returned to me at our last dinner meeting indicated that we do have some additional volunteers. If you can help, please give a call to either John Christopherson or me (877-9918). There's a job for everyone, even if you can't stand long periods, there's lots of chairs to rest on- we appreciate your support in any way.

Commander Bill

Dear Ms Lloyd,

I apologize I was not able to attend the potluck tonight. I did not RSVP and was waiting to see if I would be able to make it. I received a heavy load of homework tonight and due to the difficulty of the classes and due dates of assignments couldn't attend the potluck. I also didn't notice that we would be speaking tonight until I saw the note on the bottom of the invite stating we would. Below are some highlights that I took away from Badger Boy State, if you could please share them with the rest of the American Legion Post at your next meeting.

- 1) My favorite thing about BBS was learning more about how our Government works and operates.
- 2) I also enjoyed meeting many new people, who shared the same interests as me.
- 3) My city counselors, as well as all BBS counselors really made the experience great. They were full of knowledge and kept the program exciting to learn.
- 4) BBS was the best camp that I have attended in my high school career.

I hope you understand and I wish that I could have attended the potluck to share all of my Badger Boy State experiences, and to thank all American Legion members in person for giving me the opportunity to go to BBS. Please feel to forward this whole message to the Post if you wish to.

Sincerely,  
Randall Mastny



Jens Arneson (left) and Drew Egan (right) spoke to the membership at the September meeting about their experiences at Badger Boys State.



## Auxiliary

*Wisconsin*; I'm sure we'll hear more!

Desiree (Desi) Stoy, of Irvin Hisky Unit 535, Bellville, Ohio was elected National President at the National American Legion Auxiliary Convention in Phoenix, AZ. Desi asks us to remember why we joined the ALA and renew our commitment to our mission. In her address to convention delegates, she went on to explain how the mission of this organization, from its beginning, has been to sponsor local and national volunteer programs focusing not only on veterans, but also on young people and the communities. Therefore, through her theme she is encouraging Auxiliary members to meet challenges with **"HOPE: Honoring Our Promise Every Day."** Desi says "we are a nation a war, a nation that needs volunteers now as never before" We need to not let our military and service families loose hope. Offer assistance by either rolling up your sleeves or helping them locate resources.

Lisa Olson has gotten most of the membership renewals back. KUDOS! To you Lisa! There are only 'bout 2 dozen (that's 24!) that haven't sent in their 2009

membership renewal yet. Please don't wait until January 2009! That may be too late. Let's hit 100% as soon as possible, better yet, let's go over the top! We can do it if new adult and /or junior members are signed for the 2009 membership year. I have included eligibility requirements in this newsletter since many folks have asked about them.

Dates to remember:  
Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> Legion Breakfast  
Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup> Culvers Day  
Monday Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 P.M. ALA meeting

**Oceans of Love to our Veterans**  
-Membership Titles

**HEADQUARTERS - BEACH** -  
"Sand beneath our feet for structure."

**OFFICERS - WHALES** -  
"Supported by the oceans and grows indefinitely."

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN - LOBSTER** - "Awaits at the bottom of the ocean with its pincers ready to sign up passing membership possibilities."

**DISTRICT PRESIDENTS - SEA**

**HORSE** - Oversee County and Units from, "Sea to Shining Sea."

**COUNTY PRESIDENTS - MUSSEL** -  
"Hinged structure between Unit and District as an anchor like a rock."

**UNIT AUXILIARY MEMBERS - SHELLS** - "Hard working volunteers that are protective, colorful and they make their Unit shine in all they do."

**JUNIOR AUXILIARY MEMBERS - STARFISH** - "Their arms reach out to help others. Young and eager to participate."

**SECRETARY/TREASURER - KATHY WOLLMER** - Controller of wampum !!!!

We typically think of Spring as a time of newness and change. Not so with our American Legion Auxiliary. Along with our newly elected local (County and District Officers) we have new Department and National Officers. Our Department President for 2008-2009 is Sue Vorwald, from Fletcher-Pechacek Unit 121, River Falls, District 10. Sue theme, as quoted from the August issue of the *Wisconsin* is: **"Oceans of Love to Our Veterans"** From sea to shining sea in 2008-2009" She has also presented a new program: **TO BE A BETTER FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM** in which she is wanting to help and support our service families, but can't always do so because of the privacy acts. Keep an eye out in the

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## CHAPLAINS CORNER

September marks the beginning of the liturgical year in Eastern Christian churches, a feast of the New Year.

This is similar to the Jewish custom where Rosh Hashanah, the "Head of the Year" usually falls in September (it is calculated by a lunar calendar).

September has always seemed to me a time of beginnings. In good years, the summer begins to crack at some point and a dry,

cool evening announces that a season is about to change. That change is filled with memories of school beginnings, football games and all the possibilities that new adventures bring.

We are time-bound creatures, regardless of how our modern conveniences seem to distance us from time's markers-tides, moons, constellations. How ever we mark the times, they are in the

hand of God. Thus God has never made light of time or ridiculed us for being so chronological. He has, instead, spoken the language of time. Christ is the "Beginning and the End". Behold, I make all things new," he says.

Let us not forget all those serving our country at this time, and let us be ever mindful of those that served our great country in years past, especially those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need please contact Monte at 873-4020.

# September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1 Labor Day</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8 Post Meeting at 7PM</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13 Breakfast at Post 501 7-11 am</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19 Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21 Post breakfast 7—noon</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23 Post dinner</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>				

# October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10 Fish Fry at Waunakee 5-8</i>	<i>11 Breakfast at Post 501 7-11 am</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>13 Post Meeting at 7PM</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17 Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19 Post breakfast 7—noon</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28 Post dinner</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	

# A model for Zabul province

U.S. troops hope projects in Shar-e-Safa will build relations across region

By [Drew Brown](#), Stars and Stripes

Mideast edition, Sunday, August 31, 2008

SHAR-E-SAFA, Afghanistan — Hundreds of men, women and children gather outside the gate of the district government compound in this village in southern Afghanistan's Zabul province. They've come for free medical checkups and humanitarian supplies being distributed by U.S. forces and Afghan police.

It's a rare chance for treatment for many of them, since there are virtually no health clinics throughout the district.

An Afghan guard waves the men past the gate one at a time. The men stand quietly before a pair of U.S. soldiers.

"Salaam aliekum," a U.S. soldier says, bowing slightly, his hand to his heart, in the traditional Afghan greeting, as one old man shuffles forward. "Peace be with you."

"Salaam," the old man says. The soldier motions with his hands, and the man raises his arms as the soldier passes a metal detector over him and pats him down quickly. The man has no weapons or contraband, and the soldier sends him on.

"Tashakor," the soldier says. "Thank you."

For several hours one morning last week, it went this way, with men and boys going through one gate, and women and girls going through another. Once inside the compound, they received free medical checks by U.S. personnel, medicine if they needed it, and bundles of food, clothing, shoes and other items distributed by Afghan police.

With the Taliban presence strong throughout the district of Tarnak Wa Jaldak, most people here are stuck in the middle, unsure of where to cast their allegiance, according to U.S. troops. But events such as these help show the people that U.S. forces and the Afghan government are on their side, they say.

"This should be able to help the villagers with their illnesses and give us a good IO (information operations) campaign to say that we can help them," said Capt. Odelle Means, 30, of Columbia, S.C., the leader of Team Viper, which advises the Afghan police in Shar-e-Safa. "Not just us, but the Afghan government as well."

Reaching out periodically with medical aid and humanitarian supplies is just one of several projects that the soldiers with Team Viper and the U.S.-led Regional Police Advisory Command have launched four months ago in the village of Shar-e-Safa and Tarnak Wa Jaldak, a district which has about 36,000 inhabitants. They've also funded the construction of dozens of solar-powered wells, started a small reforestation program, and are providing money for the construction of two new schools, one of which will be used to educate girls, a huge step for the region. The soldiers here envision a development plan that will take 12 years to complete, but they are taking it one step at a time.

"There are 24 villages within a 10-kilometer radius of Shar-e-Safa," said Capt. Matthew Ryan, 42, of Buffalo, N.Y., who oversees the projects, and who speaks a fair amount of Dari, one of the two dominant languages of Afghanistan. "Fourteen of those villages had no water, no wells, nothing."

The costs have been modest so far — only about \$116,000 — most of it for local labor, but the potential payoff is huge.

"Happy people don't blow things up," Ryan said.

Shadi Khan, the district chief for Shar-e-Safa, said people's lives have already been improved, and that they are grateful for the help.

"Of course, this kind of help is very good for the people of Shar-e-Safa," Khan said, speaking through a translator. "And for this kind of help, the people are very happy for the U.S. being here."

First Lt. Steven Erickson, 24, of Stoughton, Wis., who is executive officer for Team Viper, said the overall goal is that Shar-e-Safa will become a model for development for the Tarnak Wa Jaldak district, which will in turn become a model for all of Zabul province and undercut support for the Taliban.

## FREEDOM HONOR FLIGHT/HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

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The above article is from the **Dane Co. Veterans Service Office**. It is legitimate, please check it out, and the group from WI is based out of La Crosse. If you don't have access to a computer, a copy of the application will be available, contact Commander Redepenning.

Just a reminder, Christine Scoville is your DCVSO and comes to the Stoughton Senior Center on most Fridays. Please call 266-4158 to **schedule an appointment** with Chris.

## Honor Guard members needed

We need members that are available during the day to help our Honor Guard. Training is very short and we need mostly members that can fire the M-1. You are not required to attend every funeral that you are called for, and we **DO NOT** keep track if you are not available. It is very rewarding for the volunteers who attend these formal ceremonies. We will be losing several members that head south for the winter. Please, if you have some extra time and would care to be a member, please call me at 877-9918.

Commander Bill



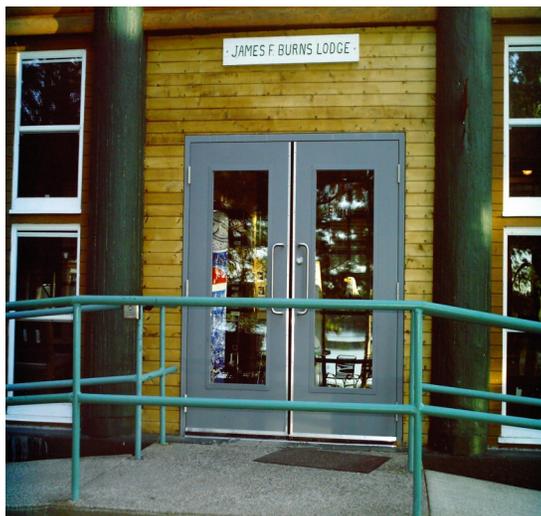
The American Legion Riders of District 3 answered Steven Erickson's call for help by sending 4 large boxes of school supplies to help in his effort to win support of the local townspeople. Above left: Photo of Bob Lloyd (District 3 ALRA President), Mary Lloyd (District 3 ALRA Treasurer) and Patti Erickson, Steven's mom, shopping for school supplies for Team Viper to distribute to local children to help with public relations. Above right: Photo of Steven in Afghanistan (he is in the front). Steven is a graduate of Stoughton High School, and the Executive Officer of Team Viper in Afghanistan.

# Calling all campers

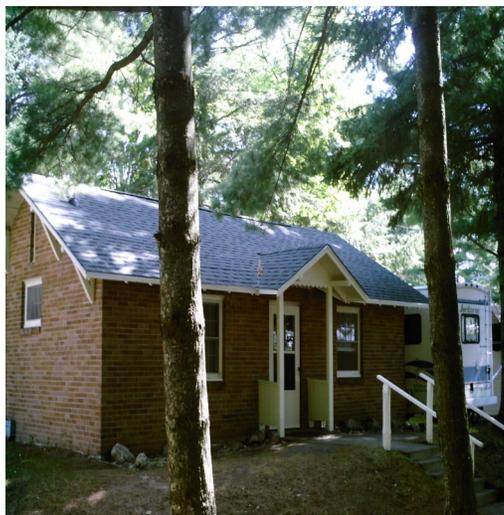
by vera roddy, member  
department Veterans affairs and rehabilitation committee

AUGUST 2008

Lake Tomahawk, WI— Four Donalds attended Camp American Legion in the same week. The “Dons” were playfully dubbed the “Godfathers”. Pictured are (front) Don Gilbert - Otis Sampson Post #59, Stoughton; Don Molter—Alonzo Cudworth Post #23, Whitefish Bay; (back) Don Tom—George Washington Post #180, Bay View; and Don Barrows—Alonzo Cudworth Post #23, White Fish Bay.



New at Camp American Legion for 2008 are the handicapped accessible automatic doors on the Lodge and Therapy buildings. A generous donation from a 2007 Camper made these state of the art doors possible to allow Campers with disabilities easier access to the buildings. The Lodge houses the Dinning Hall, Kitchen, Living Room, and Camp Offices.



Two buildings received updates. A new roof was put on the Bathhouse and a new coat of paint and new roof were put on the Chapel. Camp Director Jim Youngquist reports that attendance was up in July and they are expecting an almost full house in August. There are a few openings for the last week of Camp in September. Dr. Jim’s goal is to increase the number of VA staff that come as caregivers for the VA Hospital groups.

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**BUT**  
**IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE NICE**