

NOTES FROM THE FREEDOM VFW POST AND AUXILIARY 7692

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“ENSURING RIGHTS, RECOGNITION & REMEMBRANCE

“Thanks to all the Veterans and Auxiliary members of our Post for all that you do in the past and the future to make our Post 7692 what it is and what it can be.

Having completed my first meeting as your new commander, I am grateful for all your support and hope that I can make you proud of our Post. I would like to thank Mike Moser for furnishing the brats and hamburgers and Denny Peters for the hot dogs for our summer cookout – it is greatly appreciated.

As your commander, my goal is to help, assist, and inform all members on issues that will help improve your quality of life concerning VA health care. I encourage anyone who had signed up for VA health care and have been denied to resign up again because the guidelines have changed. Also any veterans or families of deceased veterans stressed over financial needs – there is help available.

All veterans need to check their DD214 to make sure you received all the awards you were entitled to – some medals may have been awarded the day you left service and were never picked up on your DD214. A DD215 is a way to amend your DD214 which may help in additional VA benefits. This brings up something we would like to do is put together a folder that would include everything about the veteran’s military service and benefits for the family so at the time they pass on they will have the information readily available.

We have Story Corps on Friday, September 16 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. at the Freedom Middle School with the interviews being done by the 8th grade students. This newsletter won’t be out prior to this event but we hope to have a good turnout for this event. It is important for veterans to tell their story because it is a part of history and will be sent to the Library of Congress. We will get a copy of those interviews which gives our Post some valuable history.

We are sad to report the passing of Post Comrade Gene Vande Hey – we had a good turnout of fellow comrades along with American Legion Post 258 to perform the military funeral honors. Our Post also performed these military rights for James Miller and Peter Stevens in Appleton and Wayne Baumgart here in Freedom. Comrades Stevens, Miller, and Baumgart were not members of our Post. Thanks to all of our Post comrades who participated in these honors.

Thanks for all your support!”

/s/ Commander Jim Van Den Heuvel

“Dear Sisters –

Our 2016-2017 auxiliary is up and running. Let’s start by thinking about membership. Have we taken time to pay our annual dues? Or better yet, do we know some male (yes I said male) or female that would be eligible

for auxiliary membership. Did you know that a veteran's mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter are eligible for auxiliary membership? As of July 2015 the auxiliary is allowing male relatives of veterans to join the auxiliary. So let's get the word out about our organization. We have a lot to "brag" about! You won't want to miss out on any of the fall and winter activities so keep the enclosed "calendar of events" handy. Cathy puts this together for your convenience. I also want to give "a shout out" to the writers, the printers, the envelope stuffers – all those involved in putting this newsletter together every four (4) months.

/s/ President Barbara Van Wychen

AROUND THE POST /AUXILIARY . . . the May meeting was called to order by Commander Techlin. The minutes were read and approved and the Quartermaster's report was presented along with the bills to be paid – both were approved. Comrade Tom Rickert discussed his Old Glory Honor Flight experience, Comrade Dennis Peters discussed the Memorial Day weekend observance (Simon's Cheese will be supplying roses for the veterans graves) and the June Appleton Flag Day parade, Comrade Baumgart discussed the Mackville Tractor Pull weekend and Timber Rattler's game where the Post will be presenting "the colors" and Comrade Vande Wattering discussed the placement of flags on our designated cemeteries. The Post will also be visiting an area assisted living/nursing home in June. 2016-17 officers were installed. The May door prize was collected by Acting Adjutant Voss, the \$10. Gift card from Colonial House was collected by Denny Peters and the \$10. Rico card (compliments of the Verkuilen- Van Deurzen Family Funeral Home) was collected by Bill Farrell. The funeral home reminding us that after the June meeting, the Post and Auxiliary are invited to a lunch provided and presented by at the funeral home.

President Van Wychen brought our May auxiliary meeting to order with ___ sisters in attendance including a perspective member – Elaine Springstroh and our own 8th District President Linda Moran. She presented 2 fund-raisers that the "state" would be promoting this. Our sisters voted to promote the "Post's" 12-month calendar (for \$20.00) rather than the auxiliary 3-month calendar (also for \$20.00) Discussed the up-coming Memorial Day weekend- including our annual breakfast for the veterans. (Our town-wide rummage sale will be discussed a little later.) The door prize was collected by Karen Planert - the attendance was missed by Carol Farrell.

Adjutant Van Wychen reported that Commander Techlin brought the June meeting to order with 31 comrades in attendance and welcomed Comrade Ron Van Handel as the newest member to Post 7692. Service Officer Court reported that Comrades Moser, Smits and Jahnke – all had surgery. Comrade Hank Calmes reported that three (3) bricks were installed in the Field of Honor, Comrade Baumgart thanked all who participated in the Mackville Tractor Pull – collecting a total of \$2,248. for the Post Relief Fund. Comrade McKenna reported handing out monetary awards regarding scouting at the District Convention in Green Bay. Comrade Vande Wattering thanked all who participated in placing the flags on veteran's graves in honor of Memorial Day weekend. Comrade Peters thanked all who participated in the Memorial Day activities and the Flag Day Parade. Thanks were extended to Commander Techlin for his two (2) years of service as the gavel was presented to Commander Vanden Heuvel for 2016-2017. The door prize was accepted by Comrade McKenna, \$10. Certificate to Colonial House was won by John Bartels, and \$10. gift card to Rico's (compliments of the Verkuilen- Van Deurzen Family Funeral Home) to Rick Wiegand . Due to a "showing" at the funeral home, the lunch was delivered to the clubhouse and the delicious food was enjoyed by all.

President Van Wychen called the June auxiliary meeting to order with 13 sisters present along with guest sister 8th District President Moran. Proceeds from the town-wide rummage totaled \$2,048. \$1,150.00 will be donated to the Old Glory Honor Flight program, \$200.00 to the Fox Valley Veterans Council and \$698.00 to the auxiliary treasury. President Moran reported that the state VFW newsletter (Marla Morgan – editor) received

1st place nationally. WAY TO GO MARLA! The June door prize was awarded to me . . . the attendance prize was not collected by Dorothy Evers. Sorry Dorothy!

July . . . no meeting held by Post or Auxiliary – enjoyed the annual July cookout.

Acting Adjutant Techlin reported on the August meeting being called to order by 2016-17 Commander Jim Vanden Heuvel with 31 comrades in attendance. He also reminded veterans present that the Freedom Middle School 8th graders will be conducting interviews with veterans about their experiences during their time in service on Friday, September 16. Service Officer Court reminded those present that transportation is available to V.A. Hospitals for V.A. care. Commander Vanden Heuvel informed the attending comrades that many changes are happening with veteran benefits – please contact your county service officer to insure you are receiving all benefits that you entitled to. Rebecca Vande Hey was not in attendance to collect the \$50.00 door prize but Jack Van Eperen collected the \$10. Colonial House certificate and Tom Rickert collected the \$10. Rico gift card, compliments of the Verkuilen- Van Deurzen Family Funeral Home.

Secretary Vander Logt reported that August meeting was brought to order by Sr. Vice President Konkle with 12 sisters present. General discussion was held on upcoming projects and programs for 2016-17. The door prize was won by Sister Van Den Eng and the attendance prize was collected by Sister Court.

A NOTE FROM YOUR SERVICE OFFICER . . . “Comrades – We would like to send a ‘get well’ card to all of you VFW members who have been ill or hospitalized. However, many of you are not attending the monthly meetings and we are not aware of the health problems you may be having. If any of you know of someone who has been hospitalized or is having health problems, if you would let me know, we will send you a get well card from the post. Also if you have questions about Veteran Benefits that you may be eligible for, you can contact me and I will be able to help you get the proper forms to fill out to apply for the benefit(s). Please feel free to contact me at 920-574-3270.” (submitted by Vernon Court)

TOWN-WIDE RUMMAGE . . . Several hundred volunteer hours resulted in our town-wide rummage sale netting **\$2,048.75**. Co-chairman Springstroh and Wiegand suggested we hold the sale in the VFW pavilion rather than the clubhouse and yes . . . we **FILLED** the pavilion! We are not participating in the rummage sale this fall and we will keep you informed in the January letter if the rummage sales will be our fund raising activities for 2017. If anyone has an idea for a fund-raising event please talk to anyone who participated – it was a lot of work but it was also a great to get to know your auxiliary sisters. (REMEMBER – ANYTHING BEATS A BRAT FRY! ! !) The proceeds were divided between Old Glory Flights, Fox Valley Council for Veterans and the auxiliary treasury. (A special note –Post Comrade Russell Gerritts joined the group that went to Washington D.C. on September 14 – we specified his name on the check we sent in. Hope you had a great trip Comrade Gerritts!)

AND THE WINNING RAFFLE TICKET . . . Ticket # 150 held by Jerry Haberland was the winning recipient of the 2016 raffle. Raffle Chairman Denny Peters reported that once again all 300 tickets were sold by March 30 – and extended a sincere thank you to all that were present at the drawing for the tremendous support we receive every year from the community. The officers of the auxiliary prepared food for approximately 80 attendees. (If they didn’t go home with a pocket full of cash, at least they went home with a tummy full of food and refreshments!)

A RAINY WEEKEND. . . found comrades and sisters participating in our annual Memorial Day observance under extremely wet circumstances. The observance continued under rain gear and umbrellas, finished back at the clubhouse for lunch and refreshments and preparing for the veteran’s breakfast on Saturday, followed by the observances held at the cemeteries of Town of Freedom, St. Peter/Community, Freedom Moravian and Immaculate Conception. Special recognition is given to Simon’s Cheese for providing roses for the veteran

graves and for the placing of flags by Scott and Ron Springstroh (St. Peter/Community), Dan and Connie McClintock (St. Edwards – Mackville) and Jim and Debbie Bernetzke (Freedom Moravian). Post members took care of St. Nicholas, Town of Freedom and Immaculate Conception. I believe the Boy Scouts assisted in placing the roses.

I LOVE A PARADE . . . I attended the 65th Annual Flg Day parade on June 11, 2016 which started at 2:00 p.m. in Appleton. We were 44th in a line of 100 floats attending. Our trailer was pulled by a truck driven by Post Comrade Henry McKenna and was decorated with artwork completed by Freedom High School students. We had a pretty good group of VFW and Auxiliary members riding on the trailer and our Honor/Color Guard marching ahead. The U.S. Air Force was honored this year with the theme being "Let Freedom Ring." (Appleton's own Michael Borg ,2015-2016 VFW State Commander escorted the flag.) It was very touching when many spectators thanked our service men and saluted out VFW members. (submitted by Cathy Vander Logt.)

JULY COOKOUT . . . "The cookout was a good time of visiting and eating that makes for a great time by everyone. Thanks to the cooks who met at Commander Vanden Heuvel's house to prepare the meal and from what was heard, sounds like we have to be thankful to the Commander's wife Judy who did the watching of the meat while the men enjoyed touring. Thanks again to Mike Moser for supplying the meat and everyone for bringing those delicious dishes of a wonderful variety and all very tasty." (submitted by the Planerts)

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A PARADE . . . the remark heard from fellow veterans and auxiliary sisters participating in the August 13th Seymour Hamburger Parade. Sun, shade, big crowds of people showing respect for the Honor/Color Guard as they passed and of course, the smiling faces of the children as candy was handed out – an enjoyable morning was had by all. (submitted by Karen & Bruce Planert)

FLAG DISPOSAL . . . are you in possession of an old,ragged, tattered flag and not sure what to do with it? Remember there is a disposal receptacle at the clubhouse and Comrade Denny Peters regularly empties this receptacle and prepares these flags for disposal which is being held on Saturday – October 22. Or . . . you can join us and personally bring your flag and then join us for refreshments and fellowship afterward.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR VISITS . . . Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor Court will be making presentations to the 2nd graders at St. Nicholas and St. Peter during veterans week in November. Freedom Elementary has not returned our phone calls enabling us to visit with their second graders.

VETERANS DAY – FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL . . . our first planning session with Mrs. Donna Langner was held 2 weeks ago and again plans are being made to recognize all of you veterans. Please mark your calendars and make arrangements to attend the luncheon and program to follow. These middle school students spend many hours in preparation and those who have attended these programs in the past have been very impressed with the presentations. Please join your fellow comrades in receiving these accolades – you deserve them! If any of you are having transportation problems, please contact an officer and we will try and help you with accommodations. Don't forget – November 11th! (Your invitation is enclosed.)

DINNERS . . . Veterans week concludes with our Veterans Day dinner at the clubhouse. Broasted chicken, dressing and mashed potatoes will be brought in from the Colonial House and we are working on having a special guest for dinner. While you are marking your calendar – we ask that auxiliary sisters remember to bring salads and desserts by 3:30 p.m., on Thursday, December 8th for our Golden Agers Christmas dinner. Please contact contact President Van Wychen (phone # 920-676-1227) if you are able to help that day.

REMINDER . . .The VFW veteran 2017 calendar is now available – remember there is a winner every day! They make great “stocking stuffers” and are priced at \$20.00. Contact any of your officers and they will get one to you!

SCHOOL FLAGS. . . . Did you know that your post provides a new U.S. flag to all schools in the Freedom School District each August and replaces it during the course of the school year if needed?

HISTORICAL SOCIETY . . .The Freedom Historical Society is hosting a Race Car Show event on Saturday, October 1st. The Post will be providing the Honor/Color Guard. If any of you are old race fans, old race cars are to be exhibited and drivers and crew members have expressed their plans on attending. Further information is available in the Freedom Pursuit or you can contact the Historical Society at 920-423-3036. Lots of activities planned for the day. Hope to see you there!

POST COLOR/HONOR GUARD . . .were found at Timber Rattler games this summer and will be doing same at Freedom High School football games this fall. Contact Comrade Clyde Baumgart (920-427-9708) if you are interested in participating with your fellow comrades.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT . . .Are you aware that we have medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches) available that we lend out. We ask that you sign a “waiver” insuring the VFW will not be held responsible for any accident or injury that may be incurred while using this equipment. There is no charge for the use of these items – please contact Commander Vanden Heuvel or Comrade Denny Peters for access to this equipment.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS. . . All veterans are eligible for military funeral honors at the time of their death. We ask that the family contact the funeral director assisting them with arrangements and tell them that it is the wishes of the family to have complete military honors performed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Freedom Post 7692. In accordance with the wishes of the families of Post Comrade Gene Vande Hey, Comrades Wayne Baumgart, Peter Stevens and James Miller, these honors were performed. To these comrades, “Rest in peace good and faithful servant and thank you for your years of service” – and to the families we extend our sincere sympathy. They will be missed! (In error, the May newsletter reported the death of Jack DeWitt rather than Robert John DeWitt – thank you to Comrade Baumgart for bringing this to my attention.)

IN CLOSING . . .again we find ourselves visiting fellow comrades and auxiliary sisters with health problems, sending out get-well wishes, thinking of you and sympathy cards and attending funerals. May each of you find peace in the thoughts and prayers being extended to you. And . . . may the Lord continue to bless our service men and women who are in harms way and may they return safely . With the changing of colors, we are reminded of the fact that soon it will be Halloween, then Thanksgiving and then **CHRISTMAS** and Happy New Year 2017! See you in January!

/S/ Judy

*MAY NO SOLDIER GO UNLOVED. . . MAY NO SOLDIER WALK ALONE . . .
MAY NO SOLDIER BE FORGOTTEN . . . MAY NO SOLDIER BE LEFT BEHIND
WHEN THEY COME HOME.*

(Special thanks to Commander Vanden Heuvel, President Van Wychen, Karen and Bruce Planert, Cathy Vander Logt, Vernon Court, Dennis & Phyllis Techlin, Mary Van Handel and my mom, Marg Forbeck for making this letter possible.)