



The Veterans Voice

Vietnam War Memorial



American Legion Post 639 - 2660 South Scenic Ave. - Springfield, MO 65807 - (417) 882-8639

September 2011

Members Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 9



From the Post Commander:

I would like to thank all the outgoing officers for their dedication, service and sacrifice for the Post. The post is a better place because of their service. A big thank you to Rusty Russell for the new fan blades. They have made the Post very comfortable, just ask Connie. A special thank you to Charlotte Kelley for all the work and dedication to the rose garden. The White House hasn't got anything on us. Congratulations to all incoming officers. I am looking forward to working with our new E-Board. We have a lot of problems with our post and running our Post, but I think with dedication and a lot of help from our membership, we can overcome these problems. Our number one problem is insulation for our ceiling in our building. There is none. We have started an insulation raffle and have sold 10 bags so far. The insulation comes in bags costing \$57.30 which covers 160 square feet per bag. We need approximately 30 bags. We really need the help from all our membership on this one. We need to hear from any of our members who are working in the trade groups. We need volunteers to help us with several things around the Post. Please call us. See ya at Bingo.

John Foss, Commander



From the Ladies Auxiliary:

Hello everyone. Hope all are having a happy and healthy summer. Ms Charlotte, as Sergeant At Arms, was instrumental in escorting the new and old officers for the lovely initiation ceremony. Congrats to all. Speaking of Ms Charlotte, she has worked tirelessly in the rose garden and it shows. She also says she is learning a lot and enjoying the process. "Big thank you's" go out to Peggy, Carol, Connie, Julie and Charlotte for providing the brownie desserts for the last General meeting and also to Peggy, Carol, Julie, Charlotte, Gaytha & Desiree' for help serving the 40 & 8 Dinner. We continue to use this avenue as one our fundraisers and if anyone has any specific dessert in mind, let us know. We also our working on our Bar-B-Que basket ticket sales and our upcoming Swap Meet on September 10th. The ladies will be having a bake sale that day as well. As mentioned last month, the meeting day change was voted to continue as present. Further discussion to follow. Looking ahead, the ladies are working on providing a Friday night dinner, an October-fest theme meal, and working with the Mt Vernon Vets on November 5th for the Veteran's Day Parade. Lots of fun stuff coming your way from the ladies Auxiliary. We would also like to send our prayers and thoughts to our sisters of the Auxiliary for a quick recovery and good health, and as always, we pray for our servicemen and women, past and present. With continued faith and fellowship to our American Legion Brothers and Sisters of Post 639, looking forward to a great fall.

Jo Lena Shalla, President



Sons of the Am. Legion:

Seventy (70) Sherwood Elementary School first graders were the recipients of our participation in the school book bag program.

We delivered them Wednesday morning on August 24th. A special thanks to all who helped with this project, especially to Butch Hayden, Larry & Anna Day, Connie Johnston, Carl Easley, Jessica Barnes, Gary Friend, Mary Newsome, Reckitt-Benckiser, Kirk Spinagella, and J.C. & Sheila Ponder for their individual donations, without which, the Sons could not have made this program for the kids such an overwhelming success. We will be drawing the winner of the quilt fund raiser at the next meeting. So buy your tickets at the bar now!!!

Good news everyone. The Sons are starting back up with their monthly Catfish Dinner!!! Yes, the third Friday of the month will be the Sons Catfish Dinner. Any members who can come help would be appreciated. All others, come out for an enjoyable evening with your friends and have a delicious meal.

Ken Mooney, SAL Finance Officer



American Legion Riders:

BIKES, BIKES, everywhere bikes. It seems everyone is enjoying the season by the look of biker tans at the August meeting.

The meeting time change from 7:30pm to 5:00pm had a few arriving late so I tried to fill them in on the items covered. Check out the ALR news letter for updates on Chapter activities planned.

Only two meetings to step up and support your chapter by holding an office or committee chair. Ride safe, ride often.

Mark Jackson, Director



Bar Report:

Hope this finds everyone well. My how time flies. Summer's almost gone and most of us will be grateful for a little cooler

weather but also know that means cold weather isn't far away. Just want to remind everyone that the General Meeting this month WILL NOT be on the first Tuesday of the month instead it WILL BE WEDNESDAY SEPT. 7th with dinner at 6pm and the meeting to follow at 7pm. We appreciate you being flexible with that. The Sub Vets will be having their National Convention all that week and will be utilizing the Post on that Tues. We look forward to having them here. Sat. the 10th is our Ladies Aux. swap meet and all are welcome to participate and we hope that goes well for them. So come out and support your Post, share some stories, have a beverage, and make some memories. Thank you to all our members for their support. We look forward to serving you.

Connie Johnston, Manager



Kitchen Report:

The kitchen is doing well. Our breakfasts and lunches are picking up thanks to Leigh and Vicky for their efforts on passing out flyers to all the businesses around

the Post. I would like to thank all the people that help me in the kitchen. With the Post being open Tues. through Sat. at 7am, the bar is also OPEN for business for all you early risers. Also starting Sept.9th, there will be a dinner every Friday night. Check the back cover for the menu. For now, bring an appetite and a friend and come out and enjoy. And YES, the kitchen is back to making money for the Post!!!

**Mark Reed,
Head Chef at the 'Jack-Wagon Café'**



Adjutant Report

As members are renewing their membership dues for the 2012 year, whether by 'snail mail', in person by coming by the Post, or the new way of doing it online, your continued support of your Post & the Legion is appreciated. For those who have renewed their dues online and have not received their new membership card, here's the reason why: The Post is notified that a 'member' has paid at the National level. **That's It!** We do not receive the name of the member for about 3 months. So, if you are one of those people, the Post has your new card. Either stop in and see me in my office with your copy of the paid receipt and I will give you your card. If you wish to do it online, e-Mail the receipt to me and I'll mail you your card.

Dean Agnew, Adjutant
adjutant@post639.com

Membership Milestones

45 YEARS: Garrett Dean

30 YEARS: John Bross

20 YEARS: Buckner, Albert Chappel,
 Steve Nelson, & Ronald Potter

15 YEARS: Mike Kynion, John Renard
 & Edward Schneider

10 YEARS: E.D. Fisher, Robert Manuel,
 Jack Martin, Lloyd Meachum, Leonard Meese,
 Daniel Mitchell & Charles Williams

Editors Special Note: 'Membership Milestones' is a list of our members when they renew their dues for the 2012 year. The years listed denotes how many continuous years, as noted on their membership cards, that they have been a member of the American Legion.



Buildings & Grounds:

At long last, I have NO bad news to report to you this month. Most everything here at the Post is running smoothly. I've installed some old Christmas lights around the perimeter of the stage and also a yard light for security on the North side of our building. Now the night time smokers can find their "butts" after dark!!! Also installed are some taller hand rails on the steps going to the stage. This might help a certain Master Chief get up and down without busting his butt!! Next project is to pour a concrete pad outside the door so smokers don't get muddy going in and out to smoke. There is still a balance to be raised to complete paying for the door and associated hardware. Come on folks, hit your hip and pitch in.

You might remember last month's column, mentioned needing money, to buy blades for the ceiling fans to help keep us cool. Thanks to a generous donation from Rusty Russell, the blades were purchased and are now keeping us the "Coolest Post" in Springfield. Thanks Rusty!!

Our duty Chef, Mark, has requested and received a water line in the kitchen over the steam table. Thanks Mike Blythe for installing it.

Until next month, as always, keep your eyes open to improve the appearance and function of OUR Post.



Ron Jackson





Finance Report:

Nothing new here. Times are tough everywhere, including at the Post. We need your support at the bar and at the meals

being served from our kitchen. We continue to keep the doors open 7 days a week so you can come out and enjoy the functions with your friends.

The 'Gaming Machines' are starting to do better. Come out and play. YOU COULD WIN!!! Oh, just to set the record straight, I DO NOT have access to 'tightening-up or loosening-up' the machines.

Support your Post.

Ron Paluska, Finance Officer

★ **JACK-WAGON CAFE** ★
Now OPEN for Business !!!



**Breakfast served
7am to 11am
Tuesday to Saturday**

**Lunch served
11am to 2pm
Monday to Friday**



**Dinner served
6pm to 9pm
Every Friday**



See back cover for menu & prices!!!

From the Advertising Committee:

It looks like the efforts of the last two weeks are paying off. Our committee has spread flyers on Scenic Avenue for about one mile both north and south. This has resulted in a substantial increase in attendance for breakfasts and lunches during the last few days. Flyers have also been passed out to our Bingo night on Bennett.

I'd like to give a special thanks to our newest post member, Vicki Studinski for her efforts. She has done a great job. If there are any other Legionnaires that would like to participate in the advertising campaign, please let me know. As you can see, when Post members spend some time and effort, it produces tremendous results. We could definitely use some more help.

I have received numerous good ideas from some of our members that I am going to try. If you think that you have an idea for marketing that might work, please feel free to contact me and I'll give it a try. Right now I am working on television and radio spots, Chamber of Commerce, and business networking organizations. Let me know what your thoughts are. Everyone, have a great month!!

Leigh Davis, Advertising Committee Chairman

818-426-1664 Cell

leigh-davis@sbcglobal.net

The Veterans Voice is a monthly publication of American Legion Post 639, Springfield, Missouri. All members of our post are welcome to submit an article for inclusion into this publication, but the editor reserves the right to edit length and/or content in the best interest of our subscribers and he/she alone is responsible for final content. Please submit requests and/or critical comments to editor@post639.com or request your Member-at-Large to file a request or grievance with the E-Board.



SEPTEMBER 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	2 Bingo: 6:30pm Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	3 Breakfast: 7-11
4	5 <i>Happy Labor Day</i> Lunch: 11-2	6 NO Meeting Today !!!  Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	7 Legion & Auxiliary Gen. Meetings Dinner: 6pm Meeting: 7pm Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	8 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	9 <i>USS Lapon Sub Vets Pig Roast</i> Bingo: 6:30pm Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	10 Breakfast: 7-11
11	12 Lunch: 11-2	13 SAL General Meeting: 6pm Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	14 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	15 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	16 <i>Catfish Fry By the SAL 6pm to 9pm</i> Bingo: 6:30pm Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	17 Sub Vets Meeting: 2pm Breakfast: 7-11
18 ALR Meeting 5:00 pm	19 Lunch: 11-2	20 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	21 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	22 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	23 <i>ALR Spaghetti Dinner 6pm to 9pm</i> Bingo: 6:30pm Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	24 <i>Deadline for newsletter.</i> Breakfast: 7-11
25	26 E-Board Meeting 6:30 pm Lunch: 11-2	27 40/8 @ 6pm At Post 69 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	28 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	29 Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	30 <i>Rib Eye Dinner 6pm to 9pm</i> Bingo: 6:30pm Breakfast: 7-11 Lunch: 11-2	

1st Annual September Swap Meet Sell, Sell, Sell

Date: Saturday, September 10th



Bring all your treasures
and trinkets to sell, swap,
bargain, or barter for.

All for only **\$20.00** per spot
for the day.

Grounds of Post 639

2660 South Scenic

Call or come by anytime
for more information.

417-882-8639

From 8am to 6pm

The American Legion by the Numbers:

The 2011 Consolidated Post Report summary illustrates the impact local Legionnaires make in their communities and our nation. "Every year, this report shows just how important The American Legion Family is to local communities," National Commander Jimmie L. Foster said. "Even with only 60 percent of Posts reporting, it's a very impressive set of numbers."

Highlights of the 2011 American Legion Consolidated Post Report include:

3,899,125: Hours of community service performed by Post members
\$4,249,713: Money spent performing community service by American Legion Posts
159,187: Number of veterans benefits cases handled by American Legion Post service officers
\$2,319,797: Money spent by Posts providing emergency aid in their communities
968,233: Volunteer hours Legionnaires spent providing emergency aid
\$208,486: Money raised locally for the National Emergency Fund, which provides cash grants to veteran and military families who have suffered hardship due to a natural disaster
\$1,953,108: Dollars raised by local Posts for VA hospitals
34,621: Number of Legionnaires who are registered in VA Volunteer Services
830: Number of local Heroes to Hometowns coordinators, who assist wounded warriors and newly discharged veterans as they adjust to civilian life
3,619: Number of veterans placed in jobs with help from the Legion
811: Number of veteran job fairs with local Post involvement
80,097: Number of pints of blood donated by Legionnaires
7,209: Number of ROTC medals presented by Legionnaires
21,074: Number of school medals presented to students by local Posts
109,475: Number of funeral honors provided by local Legion Posts for veterans and military personnel
16,105: Number of American Legion Boys State participants sponsored by Legion Posts
\$1,037,926: Local donations to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, to help the children of military personnel killed on duty after 9/11
314: Number of citizenship and naturalization activities conducted by local Legion Posts nationwide
2,058: Number of local Posts with websites
2,786: Number of local Posts with publications
47,508: Number of youths participating in Legion-sponsored Scouting units
237,905: Number of competitors participating in local American Legion oratorical contests
13,934: Number of college scholarships granted by local American Legion Posts
875: Number of posts that have Vets in the Classroom programs
39,048: Number of U.S. flag presentations by Legion Posts
1,464: Number of local Legion events to recognize the anniversary of 9/11
4,401: Number of Posts with local Flag Day activities
6,899: Number of Posts with local Veterans Day activities
7,317: Number of Posts with local Memorial Day activities
1,506: Number of Posts with local Get Out the Vote programs to encourage registration and participation in the electoral process
2,272: Number of American Legion Baseball teams sponsored
6,943: Number of participants in Post-sponsored Junior Shooting Sports clubs
719: Number of Posts with Family Support Network programs, which help military families during the deployment of a parent
\$211,946: Money donated locally for the Family Support Network
\$288,949: Money donated locally for the Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program, which helps military and veteran families with minor children at home
\$202,486: Money donated by local Posts to help children's hospitals
8,334: Number of American Legion Posts submitting Consolidated Post Reports in 2011
13,807: Number of American Legion Posts worldwide



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American Legion Post 639
2660 South Scenic Ave.
Springfield, MO 65807

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Springfield, MO 65807
Permit Number 451

Address Label

**IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT?
IF NOT, CALL 417-882-8639
or eMail us at editor@post639.com**

Breakfast: Tuesday to Saturday, 7am to 11am

2 Eggs (made to order) Bacon or Sausage Biscuit or Toast Hash Browns & Coffee \$4.50	2 Eggs (made to order) Bacon or Sausage Biscuits & Gravy Coffee \$4.50	2 Eggs (made to order) Bacon or Sausage Pancakes & Coffee \$4.50
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Ham & Cheese Omelet
Toast or Biscuit
Hash Browns & Coffee
\$4.50

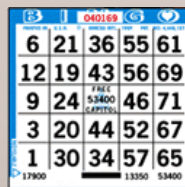
Side Orders: \$1.00 each
Orange Juice, Milk, Biscuit,
Pancakes (2), Hash Browns,
Bacon (2), or Sausage (2)

Lunch: Monday to Friday, 11am to 2pm

Monday: *Surprise by the Legion Riders*
Tuesday: *Pork Steak or
Pork Tenderloin Sandwich*
Wednesday: *Ribeye or
Pork Tenderloin Sandwich*
Thursday: *Papa Smurf Burgers*
Friday: *Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy*

Friday Night Dinners: 6pm to 9pm

September 16th: *S.A.L. Catfish Fry Dinner \$7.50*
September 23rd: *A.L.R. Spaghetti Dinner \$7.50*
September 30th: *Ribeye Steak Dinner \$10.00*



American Legion Post 639



EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

Pull Tabs start at 4:30 PM
Early Bird starts at 6:30 PM
Guaranteed Pay-out will be \$ 3,600
Plus Progressive & Pull Tabs
Bingo is back at 2032 West Bennett Street

If you can't help work BINGO, come out and Play!

Bingo Supports Your Post!!!