

# American Legion Steak and Chicken Fry – February–April 2017

Month	Feb. 11, 2017	March 12, 2017	April 08, 2017	On Call List
Team Leader	Donna Gough	Cindy Corley		
Bartenders	Dan O'Brien	John Mulcahy	Shirley Stauffacher	Steve Fitzsimmons
		Steve Krahenbuhl	Dean Wagner	Jane Cleary
				Steve Cleary
Workers	Dave Gough	Tammy Mulcahy	Lori Wagner	Jerry Lindsay
	Dennis Benson	Greg Schulte	Alexi Wagner	Judy Lindsay
	Laura Benson	Rose Schulte	Kennedy Wagner	Jerry Lindsay
	Morris Hermanson	Brian Johnson	Marsha Wagner	Steve Fitzsimmons
	Josh Goebel	Kris Krahenbuhl	Donna Schwartz	Mary Ann Kowalski
	Nicki Goebel	Angie McGowan	Wendy Johns	Suzi Kowalski
	Herman Dodson		Tash Opland	Jason King
	Carol Dodson		Connie Heins	Tammy King
Potatoes	Winnie Schwartz	Barb Eicher	Valda Ostby	
	Becky Stephens	Don Eicher	Doris McGinnis	
	Cindy Stephens	Adolph Blaser	Grace Raess	
	Grace Raess	Gloria Blaser	Helen Brunkow	

- Please call your team leader if you are unable to work OR if your spouse, friend or child would work. Please contact your replacement work from the on-call list.
- The potato group will wash and wrap potatoes at a time they establish, and they will do some other prep work for the Steak Fry.
- All workers should plan to be there from 4:15-8:30 pm. During this time, you will have the opportunity to purchase a dinner and eat
- THANK YOU for all that you do for the American Legion!



# 214 JOURNAL

BATES-O'BRIEN-HOWE-WIEGEL POST 214

WINTER 2016-17

## COMMANDER'S ARTICLE



This will be my first article as the Post Commander, having been elected in May. I want to thank you for your support and confidence. We have a good slate of Officers and I want to thank them for stepping up, some for the first time. We have made some changes in the operation of the Post, such as a new Insurance Policy. We are looking at some other changes also but as you all know, it takes money for those. Our Insurance Company has suggested some of these changes like a Fire suppression system in the Steak room and doing something with the driveway at the entrance to the lower level. The blacktop was badly broken up so we had some of it removed and now in the Spring we need to blacktop or add concrete to an area about 35' by 100'. This looks like a \$10,000 project but we must do something.

I'm proud to tell you we are renting the building a lot since our remodel project upstairs and are getting nothing but praise for how it looks. If you haven't seen it yourself, you should make the effort. Now I also must tell you Hall rentals alone won't keep our building open. We have been doing Steak Fry's monthly, which we were counting on the Income from, but are currently having trouble finding workers. When the Post has 210 members, the Auxiliary has 120 members and the SAL has 65 members, you WOULD THINK we could find volunteers for 4-5 hours a night, one day per month. But, it's not happening.

We had to cancel November and December Steak feeds and at this writing, January isn't looking good either. If this continues, we lost that income. Our Finance Officer estimates it costs us approximately \$12,000 per year to keep our doors open and

give the residents of Darlington a very nice clean building at a reasonable rent. I sincerely hope you can see our issues and maybe have a suggestion on how we are going to keep this building open.

If you are a person who likes to cook Steaks on a Gas Grill, maybe one night a year, (if we get enough volunteers) and are willing to help your Post continued our Steak feeds, we could use your help, right now. This is the area we are hurting most at right now.

For years, we had a raffle about this time of the year with the drawing in March at the Birthday supper. Last year with Murph's health issues, we dropped the ball and didn't have one. Some of us have been researching this and have come up with a new raffle and hope you will support it. We are still discussing it but I can tell you the tickets will be \$100 each and we will only sell 150 with a \$7500.00 payback. We plan to have the drawing on a Steak feed night and hope people stay around for the drawing. Must be present to win the Grand prize.

Wisconsin has a candidate for National Commander and she will be elected in Reno, Nevada in August of 2017. In the 98 years of The American Legion, we have never had a female National Commander and Wisconsin has only has one National Commander in those 98 years, so it's long overdue. We will be hosting a fundraising auction at the Post on March 5th and invite you to attend, meet Denise and if you see something you may want, participate in the auction. We will have food, music and the bar will be open. The items auctioned will be all donated and many collectable items. Please mark your calendar and if you have something to donate let myself, Dan O'Brien or Tom Johns know. Anything is welcome.

Please help us out in any way you can.

**David Gough**  
Post Commander, Post 214

## RAFFLE TO SUPPORT THE POST

- Selling only 200 tickets at \$100 each
- Payout is 50%-based on number of tickets sold (if we sell all 200 then \$10,000 payback)
- Pay back on 200 tickets sold will be 1<sup>st</sup> place \$6,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$3,000; 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$500; 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> \$100
- Send your money to:  
Darlington American Legion Post 214  
P.O. Box 163, Darlington, Wisconsin 53530
- When the money is received then a ticket will be mailed to you
- This will be an annual raffle, so once you are on the list you will have first opportunity to get a ticket for the next year.

- The drawing will be at our post picnic on Wednesday, August 2nd
- The deadline for ticket sales will be July 4th

We have a Post that is a complement to our Legion Family Membership and to the Community of Darlington. We are renting it now more than ever since we did the re-model upstairs last spring, but already we need to re-surface the front of the building for insurance purposes and for overall appearance. We are looking at putting cement down between the tank and the building at a cost of approx. \$10,000. This will mean taking out a loan, and to pay off the loan we are trying this raffle to insure the Post of a steady income to have funds for other projects down the road. If you have questions about the Raffle you can contact Dave Gough at 776.2868, Steve Fitzsimons at 553.0740, or Dan O'Brien at 482.0117.

Bates-O'Brien-Howe-Wiegel Post 214  
1400 Keep Street  
Darlington, WI 53530

PRESRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
- PAID -  
PLATTEVILLE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 155

## 2017 Membership Report

Well, this membership renewal year has been a big disappointment. Last year we had 235 members and at this time we currently have 208. We do have a few that we are hoping will renew yet, but our loss is mainly because we lost seven to 'the Commander of us all', we had nine who moved away and two that transferred to another Post. At the Post meeting we have asked if anyone knows of someone who may want to join us but as I have stated before,

not a lot of new people are moving into the Darlington area, so our pool of eligible Veterans is small.

We did have 1 member transfer into the Post and have 1 new member. I figure we will close the year with 210 members. Thank you to all the ones who have renewed with Post 214 and your continued support is certainly appreciated.

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### Report from Lafayette County Commander Dan

It has been sometime since our Post put out a Newsletter. We have a lot of information to give our Post Membership (Legion/Auxiliary and SAL), but we are prohibited by the cost to put out 3 to 4 Newsletters per year. The Cost each time we send out a Newsletter it is a minimum cost of between \$300 and \$400. We have been looking at ways to improve our communication with all the Post Membership. We have talked about a Facebook Page and also creating a Website for the Bates-O'Brien-Howe-Wiegel-Roelli Post. Both would help us get information out and both would cut down significantly on Costs once they were up and running. What we would need to start these projects is the e-mail addresses of our Post Membership. Of course not all members will have e-mail addresses or even access to a computer, but we feel that most of our Membership will. Having a Facebook Page/WebPage would be a real step forward in our Communication with all of our Membership. Once we got these systems set up and we were sending out information and Newsletters via these systems we could look at the Members who do not have access to computers and we could still mail them the Newsletter. A huge cost savings for our Post and yet improved communication for all the Membership. We would also like to receive updated phone numbers from the Membership. So many Members are no longer in the local phone books and it becomes hard for us to call individuals about items such as; contacting you about Membership Dues, attending wakes as a group, helping out at fund raisers, helping for cleanup days at the Post, Flag Retirement Ceremony, Placing Flags on Veterans graves in preparation for Memorial Day, etc; The information that you would send us would stay within the Post info and not go out to any other entity. You can send e-mail addresses and phone numbers to; For the American Legion send to; Dave Gough at 2dgoughs@centurytel.net or Dan O'Brien at danh.obrien@hotmail.com for the Auxiliary send to Cindy Corley at tccorley@centurytel.net or Marilyn Johns at tmjohns@centurytel.net and for the SAL send to Dave Blaser at blaserelectric@yahoo.com or Jason King at jasoneking@outlook.com

As our Post Finance Officer I thought I would give you some information about our Post Finances. In going over our Finances for the Post from February to date it looks like it cost an average of \$1200 a month to keep the Post open. We have a wonderful Post and it looks good thanks to a ton of volunteer work and donations, but it costs money to operate. Fortunately we have been renting out the Post more in the last 6 months than we have over the last 2 years. Our Post Building is an asset to the Community and it has been a part of our Legion Legacy since 1955. If you have questions about our Post Finances you are always welcomed to come to a Post Meeting and discuss them.

Last year with the work of Membership Chairman Dave Gough and Commander Denny Murphy our Post reached an all-time high in Membership of 235 Members. This year is a new story. We are way down on Membership and Post Membership Chairman Dave has been working hard to get Membership in, but there is sometimes only so much time and effort you can put into it. Here is my perspective on being a 45 year Legion Member. The Legion is a great mixture of different decades of Veterans which gives us many good perspectives and ideas. It has been that older members are in charge, but there is a longing for the younger members to step up to carry on the Legion Legacy. It is now that time for that to happen. I have been able to see all the good the American Legion gets done for all Veterans. How many of you know about Camp American Legion in Northern Wisconsin. It is the only place in America where Veterans and their families can go for a week to get away from the pressures of life and relax and enjoy the North Woods at No Cost to them. Yes, the State American Legion makes this happen. Over 1,300 Veterans and their Families now enjoy Camp American Legion each year. I was at the Platteville University Veterans Club last spring and we asked the 22 Veteran students how many of them were there on the GI Bill. All of them said they were taking advantage of the GI Bill. This is a program created by the American Legion so that Veterans could get an education after their service to their Country. We could go on and on about what the American Legion accomplishes for Veterans, but I will tell you to go to; [www.wilegion.org](http://www.wilegion.org) for State information about the Legion, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) for National information and you can now go to [www.darlingtonlegion.org](http://www.darlingtonlegion.org) to see what our Post is doing. You will be surprised by all the Legion is involved in with Veterans, their Families and Communities. Think about it, if there is no more American Legion, what happens to all the programs the American Legion has created. What happens to the Legacy our Forefathers started. We see the Membership dwindling each year, and if we continue to decrease in Membership so will our Voice in Washington and the programs we fought so hard to get for the Veterans and their Families. If you are presently an American Legion Member please continue you're Membership and if you have discontinued your Membership please consider re-joining the American Legion. The American Legion was started in 1919 to insure that Veterans would always be taken care of. Our duty as Veterans and Legion Members is to continue our Forefathers Goals and continue their Legacy. Help make sure the American Legion is strong for Veterans for another 100 years.

**Dan O'Brien**  
Lafayette County Commander  
and Post 214 Member

## Sons of the American Legion News

"Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country."

The above preamble of our association seems like a pretty tall order. We read this (Post version) at our combined Post/Squadron meetings every month (First Wednesdays at 7 PM). It serves to remind us of our purpose, and I believe it also serves to remind us of what a noble calling each one of us has as members of the SAL. It's a calling I think we fulfill quite well when we work together. Some of us take on leadership roles, some volunteer at fundraisers, some come to meetings and help make decisions, while some can do more than simply pay their dues. No matter your role, it is a vital one. We cannot fulfill our mission without you. To those of you who volunteer, thank you. To those of you who cannot volunteer but who continue to faithfully pay your dues, thank you for helping us keep the doors open. We continue to honor the service and sacrifices made by our parents and grandparents through our membership, fundraisers, and donations to Legion causes.

2016 was a busy year. I wish to highlight some of our accomplishments. We hosted two fundraisers in 2016 which included selling concessions at one of the Tunes at Twilight concerts and our 2nd Annual Summer Sweepstakes. In sum, we raised over \$4,000. Our sweepstakes winners were Patricia Stauffacher (\$500), Russ Elzen (\$300), and Tom Johnson (\$200). Some of our donations included a donation to the Cross Country Boosters to thank the runners for helping us stuff sweepstakes envelopes; \$50 to Darlington Elementary-Middle School to help pay for postage to send packages to soldiers overseas; \$3,000 to the Legion to help pay down debt incurred in last year's remodel; \$378 for the purchase of all new flags for the downtown Avenue of Flags project; a donation to send a high school male to Badger Boys State; and a donation to the Wounded Warriors Pheasant Hunt in Lafayette County. This is not everything we did, but it highlights some of our accomplishments.

I am most proud of the work the SAL has done over the past 18 months to help Legionnaires improve their Post facility. We have received grants from Home Depot and Focus on Energy in the amount of \$7,500; donated \$11,000 cash; and, invested countless volunteer hours to upgrade our aging Post. There is still much work to be done to bring this 60+ year old building up to 21st Century standards, but we can all be proud of our accomplishments thus far. Thank you to all of you who assisted in any way.

In closing, I'd like to wish each one of you, and your families, a healthy, happy, and prosperous new year. May 2017 bring you many blessings!

For God & Country,  
**Jason King**  
SAL Commander

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### Auxiliary News

As I am writing the Auxiliary Newsletter there is a new year upon us. Enclosed in this newsletter is the new steak fry schedule. \*\*\* Please note that the schedule included covers the months of February to April 2017.\*\*\* Please keep this new schedule in a handy place. If there would be anyone interested in being in charge of the steak fry schedule, please let me know.

**Meetings:** Auxiliary meetings are held at the post the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please mark this monthly date on your calendar. Everyone is welcome to attend. Could our members set a goal of attending a meeting in 2017? The more members that attend means brainstorming and new ideas. A goal is set that the meeting can not last more than one hour. We do appreciate and thank our membership that do attend.

**Auxiliary news:** We are starting off with a busy year. There will be a fundraising auction on Sunday, March 5, 2017 at the legion hall (upstairs). This will be fundraiser auction for Denise Rohan, who will be the first women National Commander of the American Legion. Denise and her husband Mike are from Verona. If you have something that you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Donna Gough at 776.2868. If you could donate bars or cookies for the auction luncheon, please contact Cindy Corley

at 776.4229. Funeral luncheons are held often at the legion hall. Do we have members that can help when available? If so, please contact Donna Schwartz at 776.3622.

**Membership Membership Membership:** Senior dues are \$22.00 and Junior dues at \$5.00. Please consider renewing your dues as soon as possible. If anyone would like to consider paying up their dues for life (PUFL) contact our membership chairperson Donna Gough at 776.2868.

**Other News:** Nominations of officers was held in May and election of officers in Jun. The following people have accepted to be our unit officers for the 2016-2017 year. Thank you to the following: Membership Chair – Donna Gough; Historian – Donna Smith; Sergeant at Arms – Barb Eicher; Chaplain – Winnie Schwartz; Treasurer – Marilyn Johns; Secretary – Jane O'Brien; 2nd Vice-President – Donna Schwartz; 1st Vice-President – Karen Foley; and President – Cindy Corley.

Please keep our troops and their families in your thoughts and prayers each day. United We Stand-divided we fall.

**Cindy Corley**  
President, Unit 214