
Harry N. Cutting

Post 59 American Legion Family

Waterbury, Vermont

February March April 2013

COMMANDER

I just want to thank you all for your help and support during my recovery. David Dow will be taking over the duties as Commander until I have recovered enough to resume my duties. I am making progress but it is slow.

For God and Country,
George N Estivill,
Commander Post 59

VICE COMMANDER

I would like to start out by thanking our staff and volunteers for all the work they do for Post 59. They keep the American Legion going. Thanks!

On another note I would like to let the Legion family know that our Commander, George Estivill is recuperating from an illness. We all wish George the best.

Past events went quite well:

- The S.A.L. had their Friday Night Dinner December 7th with a birthday party for Thelma Forkey.



- The Veterans Service November 11 went very well, and was followed by the Veterans Appreciation Dinner with about 150 people attending. Thank you for your service, and thanks for coming.
- The Children's Christmas Party on December 8th was great and put on by our faithful Auxiliary.

- We had our Bartender's Christmas Party December 21st, and everyone had a great time.
- We brought New Year in with games downstairs both New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.
- The Green Mountain Roamers held their annual Snowmobile Calcutta upstairs January 19th.
- The 14th annual USO Show sponsored by the Auxiliary was held on February 1st and 2nd. Hope you came and joined us in the fun!
- We had a great Super Bowl Party February 3rd.

The monthly **Friday Night Dinners** have a new kick. They will be known as Birthday of the Month Dinners. The Legion will buy anybody that has a birthday in that month a drink of his or her choice. The next dinner is Friday, February 15th, sponsored by the S.A.L. (Thanks, S.A.L.) For \$7 you will get dinner, dessert and entertainment.

On March 16th there will be a **St. Patrick's Dinner**; \$7 cover charge with a band and good food.

For God, Country and our Veterans

Our annual **Daytona Party/ Chili Cook-Off** will be Sunday February 17th. Make your chili and bring it in by 1:00. There will be prizes and lots of fun!

Auxiliary Bingo will be held February 17th.

The Legion and S.A.L Birthday Dinner will be Saturday February 23, 2013. Certificates of Years of Service with the American Legion will be handed out. Hope to see you there!

The **American Legion Calcutta** is scheduled for April 27th. This is where we earn a lot of our funds for our summer programs. Please remember to help by buying your tickets -- \$100 for a chance to win the \$3,000 top prize. A total of \$5,000 will be paid out. The ticket includes dinner for two and a dance to follow.

A very special thanks to all members for using the American Legion!

The American Legion is trying to start up a **Legion Rider's Program**. The eligibility requirement is that you have to be a member of Post 59 -- Legionnaire, Sons of the American Legion, or Auxiliary member -- with at least a 350 cc motorcycle and a valid motorcycle endorsement. The next

meeting is February 17th at 4:00 at Post 59. Hope to see you there with some input. Contact Rick Gray at (802) 522-7770.

Membership is coming in a little slow. Hope to see a lot more come in -- it sure would make my job a little easier! (Thanks!)

Remember that **elections** will be held in May and we are taking nominations shortly. If you're interested in running for an office, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact David Dow (244-8442) or Rick Gray.

Hope to see more members visit our Post.

For God and Country,
David Dow, 1st Vice
Commander, Post 59

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

On behalf of our Post Commander George Estivill and our Post officers Happy New Year! We hope that this newsletter finds everyone looking forward to a great year.

I'd like to catch you up on a couple of programs that your post supports:
Boy's State -- Junior's in high school get to spend a

week learning about how our State and National government operate, (Should operate). Young men from around Vermont attend a week program at Lyndon State, meet new friends, and have the opportunity to elect County and State officials including the Governor. The students actually spend a day at the Vermont State House and develop bills that they feel may be of interest to Vermont. A select group will be selected to attend Boy's Nation in Washington D.C. later this summer. Applications are available at Harwood High School; however feel free to contact me for additional information, 522-7770.

**THANK YOU
VETERANS**

994 Waterbury Stowe Road
Waterbury | 244-1587

www.mbvt.com

 

Vermont Youth Conservation Camp -- This is not a legion program, however Post # 59 enjoys sending our legion family members to the basic or advanced program. We accept approximately five (5) applications a year for the program. You can go to

Vermont Youth Conservation Camp, read about the details, and get an application right on line. The 2013 application is under construction and should be available mid-February. Again, contact me for additional information, 522-7770.

Post # 59 has approved to start a “**Legion Rider**” Program. The Riders program will be a program of the American Legion. We have scheduled a “Start Up” meeting for Sunday, January 13th at the post home. The meeting will be at 4:00 PM . If you will miss the initial meeting, however, we need interested members to contact us to get signed up.

You must be a “Legion Family” member, or be eligible to join the Legion, Sons’ of the American Legion or the Ladies Auxiliary. We will have a better idea on meeting nights, officers, and events after the 1st meeting. I will present the charter to the post and submit the paperwork needed to be approved at Department & National. There are no additional dues required at this time. Please send an e-mail to topovet10@gmail.com.

We will get you the application and the requirements to become a “Rider”. 522-7770.

Our Legion **BirthDay Dinner** is scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd at the Post home. Social hour is at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM. Member Certificates for continuous years will be presented to eligible members starting at 5 years through 65 years. Please join us.

Legion meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. We are in URGENT need of members stepping up, participating in post meetings, and being our next group of post officers. Please join us on February 11th at 7:00 PM.

Rick Gray
Adjutant, Post 59

SERVICE OFFICER

NOTES FROM THE VA

Back from Iraq, Afghanistan? You’ve earned VA health care benefits for conditions related to your service. Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, are eligible for an extended period of eligibility for VA health care for five years after your honorable discharge. You can receive cost free medical care for any condition related to your service in the Iraq/ Afghanistan theatre. In order to take advantage of these

benefits, OEF/OIF/OND Veterans need to enroll in VA's health care system. In addition to health care, VA has other valuable programs to help you return to civilian life:

Going Back to School — VA pays benefits to eligible Veterans, reservists and active duty service members to support your continuing education goals, including for on-the-job training, apprenticeships and non-college degree programs.

Finding a Job — You've served your country, now you are ready for a new challenge. What do you want to do next? Get help finding and securing a job, browse career opportunities, or learn more about working at VA.

How Do I Get Help — Am I eligible? VA regional offices can help you with completing and filing the right VA forms. Find out where your local VA OEF/OIF Team is located.

180 Day Dental Benefit — OEF/OIF combat Veterans may be eligible for one-time dental care — but you must apply with 180 days of your separation date from active duty.

Find Family Support at Vet Centers — If you have served in any combat zone,

local Vet Centers can help you and your family with readjustment counseling and outreach services — for free.

If you have more specific questions, the answers are here:

www.oefoif.va.gov/faqs.asp

And here's the website that explains your benefits: www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/returning_servicemembers.asp

Now is the time to take advantage of the benefits VA offers OEF/OIF Veterans. Thank you for your sacrifice and service...and Welcome Home!

Burn Pits in Iraq and Afghanistan

On Jan. 10, 2013, President Obama signed a new law (218 KB, PDF) requiring VA to establish a burn pits registry for Veterans who may have been exposed to burn pits in Iraq or Afghanistan. VA will announce how to sign up once the registry is available. The new registry will enhance VA's ability to monitor the effects of exposure and keep Veterans informed about studies and treatments. Additionally, VA is conducting studies on possible health effects.

Health concerns?

If you are concerned about

Special Medal

The South Korean government is issuing a special medal for any US Service member who served (boots on ground) in Korea during the time frame 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955. If you know someone who may be eligible have them call the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs 802-828-3379. The ceremony will be held this summer.

your exposure to burn pits, talk to your health care provider or local VA Environmental Health Coordinator.

VA health care is available to all combat Veterans for conditions possibly related to service for five years after discharge. Veterans not enrolled in the VA health care system, find out if you qualify for VA health care. Free Gulf War Registry exams are available to Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans regardless of the number of years after deployment. You don't need to enroll in VA health care to take part.

Health effects from burn pit smoke

Veterans' exposure to airborne toxins from burn pits may affect the skin, eyes, respiration, cardiovascular system, gastrointestinal tract and internal organs. Veterans deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan also were exposed to sand, dust, and particulates.

Most of the irritation related to solid waste burning exposure is temporary and resolves once the exposure is gone. This includes eye irritation and burning, coughing and throat irritation, breathing difficulties, and skin itching and rashes.

Health effects depend on a number of factors, such as the kind of waste being burned, individual susceptibility, duration, air flow patterns, and closeness to the pit. You may be at greater risk if you burned waste at the pit compared to those who were only in the vicinity of the smoke.

Type of waste burned

Waste products in burn pits include, but are not limited to: chemicals, paint, medical and human waste, metal/aluminum cans, munitions and other unexploded ordnance, petroleum and lubricant products, plastics and Styrofoam, rubber, wood, and discarded food.

VA benefits

Veterans may be eligible for VA disability compensation benefits and health care benefits for health problems associated with burn pits.

Are You an Atomic Veteran?

If you're an Atomic Veteran, a family member, or caregiver, you'll want to read the just-published [Ionizing Radiation Review newsletter](#) to find out about available resources, services, and benefits. Learn what health conditions are presumed related to ionizing radiation exposure (such as nuclear testing) during military service. A free, radiation-related medical exam is offered to eligible Atomic Veterans – find out if you qualify. Visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures to learn more about other military exposures and VA benefits.

Sam Miller,
Service Officer, Post 59

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hello Post 59 Legion Members,

We're well into 2013 with longer days and soon to be spring on the horizon!

With the close of 2012 we reported our first half results for our current 2012/2013 session. Remember the "Legion Year" runs from July 1st through June 30th of the next year.

- The 1st half of our current year the Son's reported 1243 volunteer hours and \$7,122 donated from our fundraising efforts, with an additional 6 months to go in our efforts to support veterans and community activities.

- Key charitable donations to date have included:

The Dodge House for Homeless Vets, Post 59 Member hardships, Waterbury Cub Scout Pack, Walt Coolbeth Scholarship, Freezing Funds for Families, and numerous events helping the Posts Legion and Auxiliary. And the list goes on for expected 2nd half year recipients

It is with great appreciation of all Post Members and their extended families the volunteer hours and donations to fundraising so our organization can continue to reach out and assist the programs and communities the American Legion built itself on. Much more work and assistance will come on and Sons at large.

Assistance administering our time and contributions can be very fruitful if you have



ideas. And this work goes on every month at the SAL monthly meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm, (18:00hrs), in the main hall at the Post. We would love more engagement from our membership.

- 2013 SAL membership is a little sluggish. Last report we are at 66% of our targeted 181 members. This includes SAL, SAL Junior, and SAL Dual members.

Reminder the 2013 current membership rates are: SAL - \$22.00. Junior and Duals are \$10.00

For those who haven't re-up'd yet please do. For all members, embracing and sponsoring new members is something we all should feel proud to do. It is our membership,

our energy and efforts that drive our Post.

Last couple of items; check-in with the post for final information.

- There will be St Paddy's Day activities at the Post the weekend of March 15th. The SAL will be selling raffle tickets for a St Patrick's Day Theme Basket of Cheer. Tickets will be \$3.00 each or 4 tickets for \$10.00. Tickets will go on sale at the downstairs bar and from some of your sons starting February 1st.
- Our SAL and Post Birthday Party is slated for February 23rd. This year the SON's will be recognizing service awards for continued membership, IE: 5 yr, 10, 15, 20, 25 year members. This will include dinner and a token for all recipients. Please attend this special event.

By the time this letter gets to you we should be in February looking for the spring of April. It won't be long. It too is time prepare to regroup and elect new officers for the next session that will start July 1st 2013. Nominations will be open from April 2nd through May 7th, with the election on May 7th at our monthly mtg. Please

consider working with or as an SAL officer this next session. **We all should share in this privilege.**

We look forward to seeing you at our Post and at our Post events!

For God, Country, our Veterans, and Community family! Bless Us All.

The Sons of Post 59 ~
Commander Tom



AUXILIARY

Hello ladies,

The Auxiliary has been very busy. We have more things coming up with opportunities for our members to take part. Please contact me if you would like to become more involved.

Have you paid your 2013 dues yet? Is there a reason why you haven't? At this writing we are currently at

62.7% and we need to be at 70% by Feb. 2 so please pay your dues so we can reach our next goal.

The Auxiliary meetings are now being held upstairs as it was difficult for some of our members to climb up and down the stairs. Thank you to the Legion members for switching with us.

Our annual USO show was held February 1st and 2nd. This is our big fundraiser for the Auxiliary. It was a lot of fun and a great success. Thank you for your donations of sandwich fillings, bread or baked goods for the kitchen for those two nights.

Our Auxiliary has been very busy this past year with projects for our veterans in our community. Our members participated in both Bennington Home for Veterans and the White River Veterans Hospital at Christmastime.

Our unit also sent gifts to New York and New Jersey for the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Your participation is vital to the success of the Unit. There are many ways you can help your Auxiliary. Come out and get involved

For God and Country
Virginia Estivill, President.
Unit 59

POST 59 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30 USO Show 7:30	2 USO Show 7:30
3 Super Bowl Party	4 House Committee 6:00	5 SAL Meeting 6:00	6 Pitch 6:30	7 Texas Hold'em 7:00	8 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	9
10 Private Party	11	12 Legion & Auxiliary Meetings 7:00	13 Pitch 6:30	14 Texas Hold'em 7:00	15 SAL Friday Night Dinner Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	16
17 Bingo (up) Legion Riders Meeting 4:00 Daytona Party & Chili Cook- Off c.1:00	18	19	20 Pitch 6:30	21 Texas Hold'em 7:00	22 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	23 Legion & SAL Birthday Dinner
24	25	26 E-Board Meeting 6:30	27 Pitch 6:30	28 Texas Hold'em 7:00		

MARCH 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	2
3 Bingo	4 House Committee 6:00	5 SAL Meeting 6:00	6 Pitch 6:30	7 Texas Hold'em 7:00	8 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	9
10	11	12 Legion & Auxiliary Meetings 7:00	13 Pitch 6:30	14 Texas Hold'em 7:00	15 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	16 St Patrick's Dinner Dance SAL Raffle
17	18	19	20 Pitch 6:30	21 Texas Hold'em 7:00	22 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	23
24	25	26 E-Board Meeting 6:30	27 Pitch 6:30	28 Texas Hold'em 7:00	29 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	30
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American Legion Post #59
P.O. Box 417
Waterbury, VT 05676

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APRIL 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 House Committee 6:00	2 SAL Meeting 6:00	3 Pitch 6:30	4 Texas Hold'em 7:00	5 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	6 Private Party
7 Bingo	8	9 Legion & Auxiliary Meetings 7:00	10 Pitch 6:30	11 Texas Hold'em 7:00	12 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	13
14	15	16	17 Pitch 6:30	18 Texas Hold'em 7:00	19 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	20 Private Party
21	22	23 E-Board Meeting 6:30	24 Pitch 6:30	25 Texas Hold'em 7:00	26 Ace of Spades Drawing 6:30	27 American Legion Calcutta
28	29	30				

Check with the post (244-8144) or the website (<http://www.alpost59vt.us>)
for more information and events not yet scheduled!