

The American LEGION REPORTER



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Official Publication of
Johnston-Blessman Post 38
and Auxiliary Unit 38

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

In my 6 years of observing the functions of POST 38, as I sat in the chairs and as I learned from conventions, I was amazed at how other posts were able to financially support their veterans in their time of need. I heard a story of how one vet was supported when he was about to lose his home and the American Legion was there for him until he could get back on his feet. I heard another story about how one vet ran out of gas and a post member went out of his way to bring him gas and get him back on the road, etc. Our post is not there yet. However, given the tools that were handed to them, the past administration of the post is commended for their achievements and recognized for what they were able to accomplish in a short time. Their efforts will never go unnoticed and we will continue to broaden their accomplishments as we all move forward. A want to extend a special thank you to Linda Breitzman, Paul Heit, Steve Greely, Bill Burton, and Ray Gass, the previous house chairman, for all of their efforts & hard work.

Isn't it amazing what we can accomplish when we do not care who gets the credit? It is also amazing what we can accomplish when we work together as a team and towards a common goal. Let's get back to the purpose the American Legion is all about. (i.e. Veteran programs for V.A. benefits, other veteran supporting organizations such as Homes for Vets, the Legion Riders Club, Youth programs, etc.)

Remember, children are always the only future the human race has, let's teach them well, let's get them involved and let's help them to be proud of their country. We can start by doing flag retirement ceremonies. We already see them involved in the Honor Flight program through the Civil Air Patrol and the Army ROTC program. They have been here selling baked goods during our bingo nights. Now let's broaden their horizons and get them involved in what we are doing in the community.

The American Legion's preamble to our constitution is not just words to exercise our vocal cords. It is written with a specific meaning. Most in particular, the very last one which says **"To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."** Our manual adds to that and states: "This is the most important ideal expressed in our preamble. We can hail The American Legion today as an unparalleled force in the United States for social betterment. American Legion concepts and its ideal of devotion to mutual helpfulness warmed the entire social climate of America. Today America is extending its helpful hands all over the world through our assistance programs of foreign aid. This all came about because the veterans of World War I came home enriched with wonderful ties of friendship and gave those ties meaning by consecrating them to the ideal of mutual helpfulness."

We no longer carry rank, yet we have segregation among us here at Post 38. I'm not saying officers and NCO's. I am breaking it all the way down to World War II vets, Vietnam vets, Korean vets, and Gulf War vets. We all share common ground as war time veterans. When we served, should not set us apart. This past month, since the election, I have come to a personal understanding of what the phrase "Killed by Friendly Fire" means. Members have been jumping ship looking for dry land, people are demanding I do certain things, and so on.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY

- 4 Have a safe Holiday
- 6 Post Meeting 7:00PM
- 9 Bingo 7:00PM
- 15 Scarlet Guard Meeting . . . 6:30PM
- 15-20 State Convention *hosted by Post 38 at Radisson – Please support the Post*
- 20 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00PM
House Committee Meeting . 7:00PM
- 23 Bingo 7:00PM
- 27 Executive Meeting 6:30PM
- 30 Bingo 7:00PM

AUGUST

- 3 Post Meeting 7:00PM
- 13 Bingo 7:00PM
- 16 Car Show
- 17 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00PM
- 19 Annual Corn Roast
- 24 House Committee Meeting . 7:00PM
- 31 Executive Meeting 6:30PM

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Labor Day
- 9 Post Meeting 6:30PM
- 10 Bingo 7:00PM
- 14 Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30PM
- 16 Scarlet Guard Meeting . . . 6:30PM
- 21 9th District Meeting
- 28 Executive Meeting 6:30PM

OCTOBER

- 19 Auxiliary meeting with Potluck at 6pm and initiation of New Members at 7pm Meeting

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LEGION POST 38**



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Commanders cannot always be popular and I will never be sitting on the fence. I have learned over the past few weeks, if I want a loyal friend here at Post 38, I need to get a dog. However, I am not here to make friends!!! I am here for one purpose only and that is for the good of the American Legion, what it stands for and for what it represents.

Like Harry S. Truman, the 33rd President of the United States who took office without a Vice President, I assume my position without a Sergeant At Arms; hence, I'm sergeant at armless! Unless we have a post member ready to accept the challenge??? Please let me know if you are out there and ready to help out. In the meantime, I am very appreciative that Mark Jung is willing to assume the position until someone steps up.

To all you good old boys...Lord knows the legion needs you. You have been valuable mentors and guides and I pray that continues, but change is a necessity you all resist. You aren't alone, no-one likes change, but the vote was unanimous (with no write ins). That demonstrates you truly are ready for some changes around here and I'm just the man brave enough to do it. Nearly all men can stand adversity but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. A wise man once said, "The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend." That's what I intend to do. I bring the battle to you. You are on the defensive and I will not apologize for anything that I have done or anything I am about to do.

People make history, not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous skillful leaders seize opportunities to change things for the better. It is understanding that gives us the ability to have peace. When we understand the other member's view points and he understands ours, then we can sit down and work out our differences.

Not only am I a member of the American Legion, but I'm also a member of the VFW and am looking forward to working with Commander Steve Conto. We are looking into ways that we can ALL work together. With the leadership of Mark Jung, and his Honor Guard team, we will have an open door to that endeavor.

Embrace my command and together we will thrive on the rewards of our best efforts; for the rewards of suffering is experience. Under my leadership, your new adjutant, Laurel Clewell, has been very successful in getting the number of members way up beyond our expectations, from a dismal 659 members when I first started, to a whopping 754. I pray that your new 1st vice, Michele Preston, continues to stay on the course of better communication, so we can keep that number soaring even higher.

We have just started a new fund raising campaign. A thermometer has been placed on the property to measure our efforts to help with the cost of repaving the road in front of our building, which Grand Chute is requiring us to do, and maybe some renovations inside the post as well. Donation checks can be made out to Post 38 with "road/renovation project" on the memo line so the funds get put towards that project if anyone would like to donate to that cause. Steve Greely will add a separate account to our books for this endeavor.

I carry high hopes for member participation at events to expand our horizons. It is never fair to have 10% of the members doing 90% of the work. I do realize time restrictions are a factor for many of us due to jobs, family or whatever other commitments we may be a part of, but please try to get more involved in our post. This is your post too. Let's take pride in it.

I announced at our last post meeting the NEW house committee: Paul Kryszak, Llyod Dumke, John Bourassa, Rick Eisenach, Mark Jung, and my new house committee chairman, Gordy Clewell. The transition has already taken place and I want to thank everyone for working together for the good of the American Legion per our preamble. Our new finance and budget chairperson is Laurel Clewell and she will be selecting her sitting members soon if she hasn't done so already.

As for me, your new commander, I have a center seat and I am confident that we have assembled the best crew around me. I am your glorified public relations person. I will spend my time ensuring that the bylaws are enforced to the best of my ability and that we get back to the goals of the founding members. The bylaws are a guide to the regulations we all need to adhere to. They are not a set of rules that we can circumvent whenever we see fit to benefit one's self. Post 38, and the property there of, is the property of all members not any one particular individual. The guidelines put in place via the bylaws of our post will be adhered to. Copies of the bylaws are available at the post for everyone's review. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS SHALL ALSO BE PRESENT. Please review these documents. The changes will be voted on in the near future.

We all have the power of free will. Some of you choose to run, some have stayed to ride the waves, others have come back to share in the victories to come. How wonderful it is to be a member of Post 38 where together we will fly into the successful future that lies ahead.

Respectfully yours,
Bill Falck
Commander, Post 38
AppletonCmdrPost38@gmail.com

FIRST VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

Thank you fellow Legionnaires for allowing me to become your 1st Vice Commander. Membership will be my top priority this year and with the guidance and support of some great people, I'm sure we can accomplish our mission to keep Post 38 at 100% or better! If you know someone who would like more information on joining the American Legion, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would also like to work on volunteerism. Our post has a slew of opportunities to volunteer. The Scarlet Guard is always in need of members as well as the Funeral Honor Guard. Bingo is becoming more popular and volunteers are needed. Again, please contact me with any questions or how you can become more involved with our post.

Again, thank you for entrusting me with the title of 1st Vice Commander. It's going to be a great year!

Michele Preston
US Army, Retired

ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Legionnaires

I am honored that you have elected me as your Post Adjutant. I appreciate and accept the challenge to follow Karl Heinz – tough shoes to fill. Thank you Karl for all you do for the American Legion.

The past few weeks have already been a learning experience and I plan to pass on all information and hopefully we will learn together. The first thing was to update the membership board at the post and Michele Preston, your 1st Vice Commander, John Bourassa, Past Commander, and Tammy, Commander Bill's fiancé, were very helpful in getting this project completed.

My second project is to work with all Post 38 Legion Members to update their information in the National American Legion Database. So I am asking for your name, branch of service, service era, email, phone number and date of birth. You can send your information to me at laurel.clewell@gmail.com or call at the number on the back of the newsletter.

If you would like to get on the email list for Post and Legion information, please let me know and you will be added to my list. Thank you in advance.

God Bless You and the United States of America

Laurel Clewell

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of our 6, \$1,000.00 scholarships. The winners were Rachel E. Gibson, of Appleton West High School, Maya M. Murzello, Appleton North High School, Hailey A. Prosek, of Appleton East High School, Jamie L. Frahm, Fox Valley Lutheran High School and Legion Family, Noelle L. Koepp, Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Hannah M. Gersech, Xavier High School. I would also like to thank the Legionnaires who helped to judge the scholarship applications and also presented the awards, Jeff Breitzman, Paul Vander Heiden, Karl Heinz and myself.

John Breitzman
Scholarship Chairman

LEGION CAR SHOW Sunday, August 16th

Registration is 9:30-10:30

Entry Fee is \$5.00

Vendor Fee is \$20.00

Awards at 2:30

Food Available

Any questions call
Don Bauer at 734-4094



Commander's Special

Anyone who brings in their current American Legion membership card will get some money off on their Friday dinner. Anyone who is a qualifying veteran and joins the American Legion that night, will also get some money off.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's already June and wow, this past year has went so fast! I want to thank all the ladies for helping our unit out to be able to say -- **"Unit 38 is at 100% !!!"**

I'd like to Thank Commander Jeff -Zwiers and all of 2014-2015 Officers for their service to the Legion family this past year. We appreciate the service you gave to our country while serving, and also the service and hours you give to the Legion families. You did a great job and I had fun working with all of you.

Congratulations to our new Commander Bill Falk and all the other new officers. I look forward to working with you during the coming year.

We had a busy Spring. We started with hosting the Auxiliary Bowling Tournament in April. I am pleased to say with the help of many ladies and Post members it was a big success. Thanks to all who helped in anyway, raffle basket donations, selling of tickets, set ups, planning and everything else. You all did a "Super Job", and the Auxiliary thanks you.

I wish to thank Wendy Yingling, Debra Ragen along with Lynn Puffer for the success of Poppy Day this year. This money allows us to help fund activities and purchase items needed for our veterans, veteran facilities and veteran's families. Thanks to the people who helped us distribute poppies at this yearly fundraiser.

In May we ask the Americanism Essay winners to attend our unit meeting and read their winning essays.

I was also given the honor of giving out several scholarships to local high school students, on behalf of the Department of Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary, that Unit 38 sponsored. The Children of Warriors Scholarship of \$3500 to Megan DuBois (a former BGS delegate); the HS & Angeline Lewis Scholarship of \$1000 to Anne Ulrich (former BGS Delegate) and Past President Parley Registered Nurse Scholarship of \$1000 to Avrel Abney.

At our May meeting there was a memorial service conducted for the auxiliary members we lost over the past year. Thanks to chaplain, Joan Hawkins, Gwen Schwandt, and myself for the nice service they conducted.

I also would like to recognize the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members that took part in the many Memorial Day activities. I was so proud to see so much support at the parade, Riverside services, and the Post plot services, even with the wet weather. That shows how strong our belief in our veterans, our country are. A great big THANKS!

I'd also like to thank Commander Bill Falk the legionnaires for including me in the Flag Day festivities. I rode in the parade with Commander Bill and Tammy as our driver. Once again I had a SUPER time, thanks.

The bands at the post after the parade were awesome. Thanks to all the legionnaires and their families who made these festivities possible.

Keep in mind Legion Baseball has started and we ask that you support our teams. Remember that they are our future and we need to invest in them. A great way to show your Americanism spirit is to attend a Legion ball game.

The Unit is helping the Post host the State Convention again in Appleton July 16-19th. The unit will have raffle baskets. If you would like to donate something contact Debra Ragen at 734-7107 or myself at 739-4283. If you have some time to donate we need lots of volunteers throughout the convention so please contact Linda Breitzman at 731-3703, or myself at 739-4283. We appreciate whatever you can do to help out, no matter how big or small it all helps.

Ladies, please consider if you haven't attended a meeting for awhile, or maybe not at all, coming to the meetings the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm at the Post. We would like to see and get to know you. We give away \$5 door prizes each month to 3 lucky attendees!! Next month it could be you!! You may even want to invite a friend to come along.

On October 19th at our meeting we will be initiating our new members from this past year. We will start with a pot luck supper at 6pm and the initiation along with our meeting to follow at 7pm. Please mark your calendars to attend. Any questions contact Rose or myself.

Please remember in July we will start our membership renewals, we invite you to renew your membership and sign up new members at that time.

Monday September 14th we will have an Auxiliary Executive meeting at 6:30pm at the Post.

Keep in mind we will start collecting school supplies again in September, so when you are out, pick up an item or so to donate and bring them to the meetings.

UNIT 38 MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members Sally Baublitz, Samantha Ehm, Allyson Gerhardt, Joan M Hawkins, Cindy Theabo, Kerri Walter, Leigh Zwiers, and Paula Zwiers. We have 171 paid members which I am happy to report exceeded our goal.

The state convention is July 16 – 19 in Appleton and we are in need of volunteers. Please contact me at 731-3703 if you are available for a few hours.

Remember our meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Linda Breitzman

Membership Chairman

AUXILIARY & JUNIOR MEMBERS

Can you **play** the piano? Could you spend some time to help your Auxiliary? Unit 38 has an electric piano that needs your nimble fingers.

Do you have that talent or know of someone who could join us and share their gifts of music? We are in need of your talent whether accomplished or in training. We would like you to play music (patriotic, show tunes, etc) at our Auxiliary meetings on the third Monday of the month at 7pm.

For more information, call Marian Brown at (920) 734-4283 or Rose Heinz (920) 734-7570. Thanks so much.

BADGER GIRLS STATE

June 21-26, 2015

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 38 sent 11 girls from 5 High Schools in Appleton to Oshkosh. Contributors and Delegates are:

American Legion Post 38.....	Rachel Siciliano, Xavier
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 38....	Gracelyn Rezmer, Appleton East
FVL Alumni Association.....	Angela Penterman, Fox Valley Lutheran
Herbert H. Kohl Charities.....	Jordan Schmitting, Appleton East
VFW Auxiliary Post 2778.....	Lea Lemke, Fox Valley Lutheran
Appleton Noon Lions.....	Claire Schauf, Xavier
Grand Chute Lions.....	Olivia Checkalski, Appleton North
Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Club.....	Claire Klaisner, Appleton North
Kiwanis Club-Golden K.....	Madelyn Hartjes, Appleton West
Kiwanis Club-Golden K.....	Reilly March, Appleton West
Kiwanis Club-Golden K.....	Kelly Murray, Appleton West

Megan Getlinger, Fox Valley Lutheran is also a delegate. Her sponsorship is thru the Tomahawk Unit 93, as their delegate was unable to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS to the delegates as they represented their schools and a very special **Thank You** goes to all our contributors for their support in this outstanding program of Americanism, Youth, and Government.

Rose Heinz, Badger Girls State Chairman, Unit 38

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

June 11, 2015

LOST MEMBERS:

Theodore Harris	4.21.15
John Braunreiter Sr.....	4.21.15
Robert L Lemke	4.22.15
Richard Puffer	4.28.15
James D Hintz	5.15.15
William F Errington	6.05.15

Recuperating at home or a Nursing Care Facility:

- Rose Heinz had surgery and is recuperating at home.
- Eugene LaPlante: Recovering at home
- Leroy Meinhardt is at Colony Oaks recuperating.
- Don Huth is at Brewster Village recuperating.
- John Erdmann is at Appleton Health Care on Meade St. It is the old Franciscan Care facility north of OO.
- William Hoffman is at Brewster Village.
- Jerry Miller is at Manor Care.
- Duanna Diedrick is recuperating at home following heart surgery.
- Arden Peterson is in Willow Lane Rehab Facility. Address is 850 W Elsner Rd. Appleton.
- Rita Linzmeier called to let me know Leonard M. Kutz is in Willow Lane at 850 W. Elsner Rd. in Appleton. His phone # is 920-733-7572. She is his Power of Attorney. Her email is buttonoserita@outlook.com

PLEASE NOTIFY ME IF ANY ONE IS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY OR ANY OTHER ILLNESSES SO I CAN GET THEM IN THE NEWSLETTER. THANK YOU.

Don J Eiden Service Officer Post 38

E-mail: djeiden@new.rr.com

Phone# 733-2957

OFFICERS 2015-2016
Johnston – Blessman Post No. 38

Commander Bill Falck 358-5979	Finance Officer Steve Greeley 858-2294
1st Vice Commander Michele Preston 358-5979	Asst. Finance Officer Gordy Clewell 284-0506
2nd Vice Commander Lon Bartsch 285-6015	Service Officer Don Eiden 733-2957
3rd Vice Commander Fred Gloede 830-2483	Chaplain Robert Johnson 731-1844
Adjutant Laurel Clewell 427-4234	Sgt.-At-Arms
House Comm. Chairman Gordy Clewell 284-0506	SAL Commander Bob Seide 715-853-5901
Scarlet Guard John Bourassa 858-6367 Lloyd Dumke 257-8962	Military Funeral Chairman Mark Jung 731-4558

AUXILIARY OFFICERS
2015-2016

President Marian Brown (920) 739-4283	Sgt-At-Arms Georgia Altizer (920) 428-0209
1st Vice President Beth Griesser (920) 832-0639	Asst Sgt-At-Arms Jessica Garza (920) 687-9958
2nd Vice President Phyliss Duquette (920) 733-6801	Illness & Sick Call Lori Hansel (920) 788-9696
Secretary Rose Heinz (920) 734-7570	Membership Linda Breitzman (920) 731-3703
Treasurer Debra Ragen (920) 734-7107	
Poppy Treasurer Wendy Yingling (920) 850-0533	
Chaplain Joan Hawkins (920) 734-8919	



The Reporter is now on the Post Web Page. If you wish to read it online rather than have it mailed to you, contact Karl Heinz 920-734-7570 or rozkar@new.rr.com to have your name removed from the mail list. Copies will remain on the website for one year.

SPECIAL NOTICE



The Reporter is published quarterly, four times a year. The Reporter is an official publication of Johnston-Blessman Post 38 and Auxiliary Unit 38 c/o The American Legion, 3220 W. College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54914.



The American Legion Dept of WI
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 Johnston-Blessman Post 38
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