



SNAFU



Official Publication of The Westphal American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion

Volume 60 No. 36

ROBBINSDALE/CRYSTAL

Feb/March 2017

**Monthly meetings: Legion (2nd Thursday) Feb 9th & Mar 9th 7PM
Auxiliary (1st Tuesday) Feb 7th & Mar 7th @ 6pm
S.A.L. (1st Tuesday) Feb 7th & Mar 7th @ 6pm**



Commanders Column

Greetings:

Westphal will be hosting the Snowmobile rally membership team on January 28th. Please take time to pay your 2017 dues. The team of Pfiefer will be at the club Saturday January 28th at 10:30 am. Take time to stop in and meet this team if you can.

For God and Country,

Thomas K. Juergens
Commander



Sons of the American Legion

Greetings

Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month. I hope to see you there.

Scott Singleton
Sal Commander



Auxiliary President's Column

Greetings

The Holidays have come and gone and I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year.

Jan Walker represented our unit at Mid Winter which was held in Anoka on January 7th. At this Conference the chairman for the 10th District give their midyear report.

Jan serves on the Finance Committee for the 10th District and was there with the other members of the committee to give the District Finance report.

Members from our unit will be attending the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Leadership Workshop. This is hosted by the 10th District and Fridley Unit 303 on January 21st at 9 am – 2 pm.

This workshop is an opportunity for all members to increase knowledge of our organization, history, basic protocol, how to conduct meetings, and any other questions attendees may have. This will be a casual and informational setting for members to ask questions, share ideas with other members, and enhance your membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. This workshop will also qualify you to receive the National Leadership card.

God Bless America

Kathy Gustafson
Auxiliary President



Legion Chaplain's Corner

Why do we give up something for Lent?

You're out with your friends on a Friday night and suddenly you notice that one of them has switched from his favorite microbrew to... lemonade? Is it time for Lent already? Giving up something for Lent sometimes evokes head-scratching in non-Catholics, but what might seem like

just another Catholic eccentricity can be a practice with deep spiritual significance.

Lent, the period of 40 days that precedes the celebration of Easter, has its origin in the early days of the Church. Converts seeking to become Christian, who at that time were mostly adults, spent several years in study and preparation. Under the threat of Roman persecution, becoming a Christian was serious business, so their process of preparation was intensive! Then they went through a final period of "purification and enlightenment" for the 40 days before their baptism at Easter. The rest of the Church began to observe the season of Lent in solidarity with these newest Christians. It became an opportunity for all Christians to recall and renew the commitment of their baptism.

Today we know Lent as a season of conversion: we acknowledge the ways we have turned away from God in our lives and we focus on turning our hearts and minds back toward God. Hence the three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These observances help us turn away from whatever has distracted or derailed us and to turn back to God. Giving up something for Lent is ultimately a form of fasting. We can deprive ourselves of some small pleasure or indulgence and offer that sacrifice up to God. Or we might "give up" a bad habit such as smoking as a way of positively turning our life back towards what God wants for us.

So maybe your mom was on to something when she had you give up Oreos or your favorite TV show as a child. An experience of want, however temporary, can help us to appreciate the true abundance in our lives. And a small positive change can have a big impact that lasts beyond the 40 days of Lent.

Take the time now to think about what you might give up this year. Is it something you enjoy that you want to

sacrifice for a while, like your daily latte? Or is it a bad habit you want to conquer, like running in late to meetings with co-workers? Or perhaps you want to turn your cell phone off for a few hours each day and not let it distract you from the loved ones you are with in real time? Find something that works for you, and whatever it is, may it help you to turn towards God in this holy season of Lent.

Chris Erickson, Post Chaplain

Auxiliary Membership

We currently have 76 paid members. Please pay your dues for 2017 as soon as possible.

A new year is starting for the 2016-17 Auxiliary year. As of

When you receive your new membership card. Please sign on to www.thelit.com go to My account and follow through with the information requested. It will only take less than 10 minutes to do this. You are eligible for Legionnaire Insurance Trust accidental death insurance policy for \$1000 at no cost to the members. Please let your family members know about your insurance policy. They are making it available for all members of the Legion family. (Legion, SAL and Auxiliary) It will go up to \$5,000 after it has been okayed by the Legion. They will notify us when that happens. All members of the American Legion have had this policy.

Diane Laniel,
Membership Chairman



Auxiliary Chaplain's Corner

Prayer for Our Country

We need prayer for our country.
We need the Lord's wisdom
And blessing on our country.

We face difficult situations in our country.
But we have faced many difficult times in the past.
Let us allow our love of country
and patriotism to rise up in us.

Let us seek God's face,
be dedicated to our Lord, and pray.
Please join with us at Inspirational - Prayers,

and lift up this prayer for our troops
and our leaders, as well as all our citizens.
Almighty God,

We come to honor you this day. We come to acknowledge that you are the only one who can rightly lead and guide our country.

Lord, we lift up prayer for our country.

We ask that you would bless our country with your wisdom, your love, and your compassion. May we be a people who are pursuing you and your plans for us - individually and corporately?

Lord, we lift up prayer for our leaders.

Lord, we ask for blessings on our leaders. May these servants who are in positions of authority take that responsibility seriously and do their very best each day. May they realize their need for you and for your direction? May they hear your voice as they make their decisions, and may they follow your guidance? May they have a passion for people, for truth, and for righteousness?

Lord, we lift up prayer for our troops.

Lord, we ask for blessings on our service men and women. We ask protection for all our men and women in uniform both here and around the world. We are grateful for their service and their dedication to keeping our nation safe. We pray that you would keep them safe. We thank you for our blessings of life and liberty. May our country continually show love and honor to you. May our dedication to you cause us to reach out to all the other nations and people groups with a strong desire for peace and harmony to be displayed whenever possible?

We ask all these things in the name of your beloved son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Joannie Stanhope
Auxiliary Chaplain

Post Membership:2016-2017

As of January 14th, our post membership stands at 447 paid thru 2017. This consists of 349 paid directly to the post (Westphal). 60 PUFLs and 38 paid on line.

There are 90 members that paid for 2016 but haven't paid for 2017. Please pay your 2017 dues as soon as you can. Our goal for the year is 506. (447+90 =537)

The Legion national office sends out 4 dues notices during the year and you will keep getting them until you pay. If you get a notice after receiving your card, just destroy it.

Your dues payment goes from the Westphal post to the State office and on to the National and sometimes all that travel gets a little confused.

Thank You

Don Gold, Membership Director

Minnesota Girls State Program

It is time for us to contact our high schools to let them know that we are sponsoring a girl to Minnesota Girls State that will be held on June 11th to the 17th at Bethel University, St. Paul, MN.. If you have a granddaughter that will be completing her junior year in high school this year, we would like to know if they would like to attend the week of learning. For more information, contact Jan Walker at 763-464-3418.

Gambling Report



No report for December and January	
<p>-NOTE-</p> <p>Our pull tab sales have increased in the last 4 or 5 months so I would like our players to know how much both the club and our charities appreciate your continued support.</p> <p>Your support is what allows Westphal to continue to provide support to all of our local and national charities and supply so many organizations with some of the funds they need to support so many people in need.</p> <p>Thank You!</p> <p>Our monthly bingo sessions in conjunction with Northridge Senior Facility is continuing to grow and will continue.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Jim Baumgarten, Gambling Manager</p>	

NATIONAL EDUCATION

Jan Walker volunteers at Forest Elementary two days a week in Mrs. Efron's Kindergarten class teaching the students to read. This is her 7th year working for the school. As a reward for doing a great job, she makes each child a pair of mittens and a matching hat. These items are giving to the students when they break for winter Holidays. She asks each student what their favorite color is at the beginning of the school year and they each get that color in the hats and mittens.

The two teachers that she works with also get a cowl scarf with mittens. The office personnel get homemade dish clothes.

The items given to the teachers and office personnel, are to thank them for all of their work during the school year.

Picture of the students in the classroom with Jan.



Thank You notes to Jan from the students after the Holidays.



Donations this year for the Honorary 10th District Junior Presidents Project.

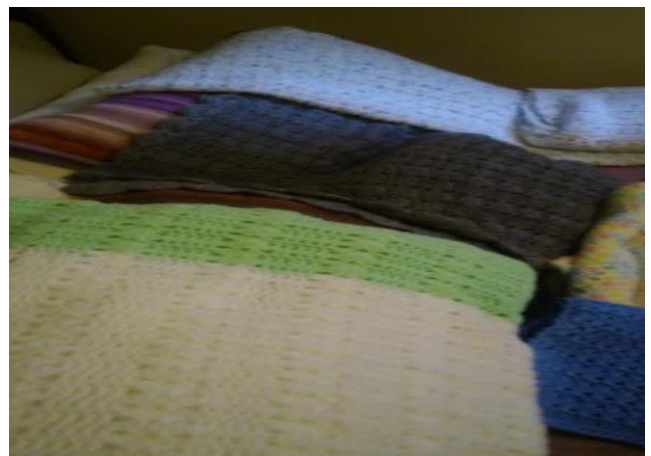
Baby items for the Woman Veterans. Sweaters



Hats for newborn



Baby Blankets



New Note!!

Come to Westphal American Legion Community Room and Hear tomorrow's Hits from the Composers.

Our Songwriters Showcase is the 1st and last Thursday each month from 7-11PM.

Admission is free and food and beverages are available for sale.

Come on down to Westphal American Legion for Good Food & Fun
3600 France Avenue North
763-588-2728

If you have any Reflections of your year at Westphal. Auxiliary, Legion or SAL. Please send them to me and I will get them in the Snafu.



We Rent Our Hall

**Discount for members –
Call for availability
763-647-9933**

**Westphal American
Legion Family**

Membership Dues

Legion \$43.00

Auxiliary \$25.00

Sons of American Legion
(SAL) \$25.00

Dual members \$15.00 and
under the age of 18 is \$15.00

Please pay your 2017 dues

~February 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bingo 6:00 – 8:30	2 Drink\Pull Tabs Songwriter Showcase 7-11 pm	3 Meat Raffle 5PM Karaoke 8-12	4
5 Bloody Mary Bar Noon – 5PM	6 Taco Monday 5PM until gone	7 Karaoke 7-11 Aux Mtg 6:00 pm SAL Mtg 6:00 pm Legion Ex Bd. 6:30 pm	8 Bingo 6:00 – 8:30	9 Drink\Pull Tabs Legion Mtg. 7:00PM	10 Meat Raffle 5PM Karaoke 8-12	11
12 Bloody Mary Bar Noon – 5PM	13 Taco Monday 5PM until gone	14 Karaoke 7-11	15 Bingo 6:00 – 8:30	16 Drink\Pull Tabs	17 Meat Raffle 5PM Karaoke 8-12	18
19 Bloody Mary Bar Noon – 5PM	20 Taco Monday 5PM until gone CARD CLUB 10AM to Noon	21 Karaoke 7-11	22 Bingo 6:00 – 8:30	23 Drink\Pull Tabs	24 Meat Raffle 5PM Karaoke 8-12	25
26 Bloody Mary Bar Noon – 5PM	27 Taco Monday 5PM until gone	28 Karaoke 7-11				
~ March 2017~						
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Ad pages

WESTPHAL POST No. 251
 3600 France Avenue North
 Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Twin Cities, MN Permit No. 90246
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WESTPHAL POST 251 OFFICERS 2014-15		
Commander	Tom Juergens	612-419-2113
1st Vice Cmdr	Don Gold	763-226-9198
2nd Vice Cmdr	Chris Erickson	763-957-0044
Adjutant	Chris Erickson	763-957-0044
Chaplain	Chris Erickson	763-957-0044
Sgt. At Arms	Brian Stritesky	
Membership Dir	Don Gold	763-226-9198
Exec. Committee members	George Kramer, Harold Miller, Jim Baumgarten, Don Cate, Mike Laniel and the officers listed above, Kathy Gustafson and Jan Walker	

UNIT 251 OFFICERS 2014-15		
President	Kathy Gustafson	763-533-3272
1st Vice President	Diane Laniel	
2nd Vice President		
Secretary	Jan Walker	763-464-3418
Treasurer	Nila McDonald	
Historian	Chris Friedlieb	
Membership Secretary	Diane Laniel	
Chaplain	Joannie Stanhope	
Sgt. At Arms	Renee Roberts	

S.A.L. OFFICERS 2014-15		
Commander	Scott Singleton	
1st Vice Cmdr.	Gene Gustafson	
2nd Vice Cmdr.	John Hartmann	
Finance Officer		
Adjutant	Chris Erickson	763-957-0044
Chaplain	Keith Stritesky	
Historian		
Sgt. At Arms	Dan Hutla	

WESTPHAL POST 251 SNAFU
 Published bi-monthly and distributed to approximately 1200 Legionnaires, Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. News items are welcome and encouraged.

Please send all you articles and information via email to:
Janwalker425@gmail.com.

If you do not have email, give me a call 763-464-3418 and I will pick it up at the club.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE SNAFU WILL BE MARCH 14TH.

POST SERVICE OFFICER
 I am pleased to have been appointed as Westphal Post Service Officer- a resource for information and referrals on veterans' issues, benefits, and resources for our members and veterans in general.

Contact me at: (612) 385-1107 (cell) or JVANDEMARK44@gmail.com

All the best for our vets!

Jim VanDemark

WESTPHAL AMERICAN LEGION POST 251
3600 FRANCE AVENUE NORTH
ROBBINSDALE, MN 55422
PHONE: 763-588-2728

Bar Business Hours:
 Monday – Thursday..... 10:00 AM - 11:00PM
 Friday10:00 AM - 1:00 AM
 Saturday10:00 AM -11:00 PM
 Sunday 12:00 Noon - 10:00 PM