



THE VETERANS VOICE

AMERICAN LEGION POST 77

Meuli • Kelean • Kramer • Dannenberg

12 East Spring Street, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

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2009 Badger Boys State

Each year your American Legion Post sends eight high school seniors to Ripon, Wisconsin (Home of the Republican Party) for a week-long session where they create the 51st state. Their state creates the branches of government necessary to govern their new state and establishes the main functions of city and county government. Elections are held and the 900 attending students learn to govern via their state legislature, city and county government.

Last year, we requested that several of the boys who attended 2008 Badger Boys State (BBS) give a short presentation at one of our regular meetings. Four of the boys attended our September 4, 2008 meeting and this brought back memories for one post member. He had attended the third such event held during WWII where there was an even greater feeling of patriotism in the air during his Badger Boys State week.

Member Dr. John Vodacek writes the following about his experience: "The four high school boys who recently reported at a Post 77 meeting stated that their experiences at Badger Boys State were something they would remember all their lives. Having been privileged to attend BBS in 1942 – 66 years ago – I would say "Amen!" to that. They stated that the program gave them insight into the workings of state government which they might not otherwise have gotten. I know that my BBS experience has stayed with me. Therefore, I firmly believe that Badger Boys State is one of the most worthwhile and significant programs that our Post supports each year."

This year Post 77 will again coordinate financing of eight boys for a week at Badger Boys State. The cost can exceed \$2,700.00 and we have been fortunate that local civic groups and businesses donate funds each year to cover most costs. If you are aware of a local civic organization or business that would be interested in becoming a sponsor please give BBS Chairman Larry Werner a call at 723-0908 with contact information.

THE FINAL BUGLE

Deceased Members Since September 30, 2008



- ⊗ Melvin C. Lavine, USMC, WW2 ⊗
- ⊗ Thomas H. Knoble, USMC, WW2 ⊗
- ⊗ Byron J. Crawford, Army, Korea ⊗
- ⊗ Leon J. Davey, Navy, Korea ⊗
- ⊗ Lee E. Baier, Navy, Cuba ⊗
- ⊗ Richard Kleinvachter, Army, Korea ⊗
- ⊗ Warren G. Stuebs, USMC, Korea ⊗

Troop Send-Off Planned

On January 11, 2009, approximately 3,500 members of the Wisconsin Army National departed for training in Florida. They will return for a short period in early February before reporting for more training at Fort Bliss in Texas. This particular deployment will be the largest of Wisconsin National Guard forces to a combat zone since World War II.

Sixty members of the 829th Vertical Engineering Company, stationed at the Chippewa Falls Armory, are also part of this group.

The 829th's Family Readiness Group and area veteran service organizations would like to show their support for these troops and have tentatively planned a send-off for Wednesday, February 18, 2009.

If everything goes as planned, the send-off will be held at the Chi-Hi auditorium and start at 4:30 p.m. There will be several speakers but the ceremony will be less than an hour in length. The Chippewa Falls Patriotic Council has been asked to present and retire the colors for the event.

The public is welcome to attend since the auditorium has plenty of seating. Let's see our troops off right!

Legion Christmas Party



We held our annual Christmas Party on December 14, 2008 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Chippewa Falls. Ninety-three people attended the dinner and Shirley Bowe served us baked chicken and ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable and desert. It has a great time to visit with friends and many won door prizes.

Legion Birthday Party Planned

American Legion Post 77 has scheduled our annual birthday party for Sunday, March 15, 2009, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 236 Pumphouse Road, Chippewa Falls. A social hour is set to start at 4:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. A small prize raffle drawing will be held as in the past.

Your tickets for the big raffle are enclosed with this newsletter. Please return them as soon as possible. The proceeds from the raffle help pay for many programs the Post supports as well as maintain our Post Home.

You will need to RSVP Adjutant Leroy Jansky at 723-0408 (ljansky@charter.net) or Commander Louie Rineck at 723-9756 for dinner reservations. See the enclosed flyer for more details.