



William R. Witty

American Legion Post 37

Quarterly Newsletter

October | November | December
2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Stay Connected.....
- Commander News.....
- Membership
- Bar News
- Auxiliary.....
- Legion Riders
- Spotlight.....
- Veteran Visits.....
- Upcoming Events.....



American Legion Post 37 led the parade at the annual Chamber of Commerce 4th of July parade. Thank you for your dedication of representing our nation!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The purpose of the American Legion color guard is to honor the American flag and the sacrifices made by those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The color guard is typically composed of veterans and active-duty military members. They march in parades, ceremonies, and other events carrying the American flag, the POW/MIA flag, the American Legion flag, and the state flag, and the service flags. The precise meaning of the color guard's actions can vary depending on the specific event, but they generally serve to:

Pay tribute to the American flag and its symbolism. **Remember** those who have served in the military. **Honor** the sacrifices made by those who have died in service to their country. **Promote** patriotism and civic pride

The American Legion color guard is a powerful symbol of American patriotism and military service. Their presence at events reminds us of the importance of these values and the sacrifices that have been made to protect them. Here are some specific examples of the patriotic meaning of an American Legion color guard:

- At a Memorial Day ceremony, the color guard takes a slow march in front of the reviewing stand and visitors. This shows that the flag and the sacrifices of the veterans are at the forefront of the ceremony.
- At a Fourth of July parade, the color guard will lead the parade, followed by other patriotic groups and floats. This shows that the flag is the symbol of the nation and that the parade is a celebration of American freedom.
- On Veterans Day the color Guard will present the colors for ceremonies for the community and schools. This shows respect and honor to all veterans, past and present.
- At a military funeral, the color guard may present the flag when the Honor Guard renders a three-round volley. This is a gesture of respect and honor for the soldier's service.

The American Legion color guard is a reminder of the importance of patriotism and military service. Their presence at events helps to promote these values and to honor those who have sacrificed for their country. I can assure you that I am not the only member of the Post 37 Color Guard who feels a great sense of pride when we participate in an event and get to display the colors of our post, our state, and our country. I hope you all feel the same.

Submitted by Rick Wright, Color Guard

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

- **Post: Second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.**
- **Auxiliary: Second Monday of each month, 5:30 p.m.**
- **SAL: First Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.**
- **Legion Riders: Fourth Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.**

This newsletter is comprised of information collected by Legion Family members and compiled by a volunteer. All submitted information may be edited for clarity or brevity. We regret any misspellings, omissions or late information. Reference to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the American Legion Post 37. Please direct any inquiries to the Newsletter Coordinator at newsletterlegion37@gmail.com.

STAY CONNECTED!

American Legion Post 37

Web: www.post37.com

Monthly Calendar: www.post37.com/calendar

Facebook: St. Peter American Legion Post 37

Phone: 507-934-6435

Address: 229 W. Nassau, Saint Peter, MN 56082

American Legion Post 37 Leaders

Post Commander: Jamie Lorentz

alegionpost37@gmail.com

Post Adjutant: Steve Ward

amlegion37adjutant@gmail.com

Color Guard Commander: Rick Wright

wright54@mchsi.com

American Legion Auxiliary, President: Angie Glassel

auxiliarypost37@gmail.com

Sons of the American Legion, Commander: Jeff Knutson

jesckn59@gmail.com

American Legion Riders, Director: Tom Christensen

sellitfaster@hotmail.com

Post Managers: Marcy and Jamie Lorentz

alegionpost37@gmail.com

State and Local Representatives

Jeff Brand, MN House 18A, 651-296-8634

Nick Frentz, MN Senate 18, 651-296-6153

Brad Finstad, US House, New Ulm Office, 507-577-6151

Amy Klobuchar, US Senate, Rochester Office, 507-288-5321

Tina Smith, US Senate, Rochester Office, -507-218-2003

Local Veteran Service Officers

Nathan Tish, Nicollet County, 507-934-7870

Michael McLaughlin, Blue Earth County, 507-304-4246

Mark Roemhildt, Le Sueur County, 507-357-8279

Veteran Support Organizations

MACV, 833-222-6228

MN DAV, 651-291-1212

Mankato VA Clinic, 507-387-2939

VA Medical Center, Minneapolis, 612-725-2000

Veteran Suicide and Crisis Line, 988

Last Man Club, Dave Johnson, Commander, 612-619-6205

Would you like to be added or updated as a contact?

Please send your information to newsletterlegion37@gmail.com.

Military Dates to Remember October–December

October 13:

Navy Birthday

October 26:

National Day of the Deployed

November 10:

Marine Corps Birthday

November 11:

Veterans Day

December 7:

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 12:

National Guard Birthday

December 16:

National Wreaths Across America Day

December 20:

Space Force Birthday

Veterans Crisis Line



**DIAL 988 then
PRESS 1**

THE
AMERICAN
LEGION **FAMILY**



POST COMMANDER NEWS

In case you missed the news, American Legion Post 37 had the honor of handing out a Congressional Gold Medal to Saint Peter native and resident, Sonny Meyer. On August 17, Sonny was bestowed the highest honor by the United States Congress and presented to him by his fellow members of the Legion. Congratulations, Sonny!



Photo Credit: Philip Weyhe, St. Peter Herald

Ideas Wanted! We are looking for ways to increase attendance at membership meetings. If you have suggestions or fresh ideas, let us know! No ideas? That's ok—just come to the meetings!

American Legion Family All-Member Gathering is in the works! Stay tuned for a Post-wide event.

Interested in visiting with our elderly veterans? Contact Dave Arpin for details and how you can assist.

Please watch the website and Facebook for details about new events and programs as it becomes available!

Submitted by Jamie Lorentz, Post Commander

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please welcome new members John Woods, Larry Fitch, and Derek Holden. If you see any of these guys please welcome them into our club!

We lost one very active member in Tom Roessler. Our sympathies go out to his family.

We are projected to have 253 total members. To date, I have sent out 148 new cards which puts us at around 60%.

Submitted by Greg Witty, Membership Director

UPDATE FROM THE POST MANAGERS

We are pleased to report we are using our kitchen and have a food menu Monday through Friday. With GAC students back in town, we will have a few events catered to welcoming a younger crowd.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CALENDARS ARE POSTED IN THE BAR, ON THE WEBSITE, AND ON FACEBOOK.

Submitted by Jamie and Marcy Lorentz

MINNESOTA WILD MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT



Tuesday, October 24th vs. Edmonton Oilers @ 8 p.m.

Ticket pack includes: Ticket to Wild game vs. Oilers and an exclusive Minnesota Wild branded Military camo hat



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to access the link for discounted ticket sales!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

LADIES AUXILIARY CHAPTER 37 NEWS

Mission Statement In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

2023 Membership Dues

If you haven't paid your 2023 membership dues, you still can by mailing it in or drop it off at the Legion in the membership wood box on the pillar. Note - the membership fee is \$35 and will stay the same for 2024!

2023 Poppy Report

2023 was another successful year for the annual poppy fundraiser! My sister, Rebekah, and I have been overseeing this fundraiser since 2018. We distributed cans around Saint Peter to approximately 15 businesses and this year, collected \$644.89. The funds are strictly to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs. Donation cans were available at Arrow Hardware and Paint, the Legion, Nutter's Clothing, Saint Peter Thrift Store, MGM Liquor Store, Patrick's, the Redman Club and Family Fresh; we have added other locations like The Cheese and Pie Mongers, the public library, and Karen's Flowers over the last few years. There are also weekend stands at Hy-Vee and Family Fresh, which are hosted by Auxiliary members. This year also marks my final year with this project and my sister, Rebekah, will take over in 2024.

Submitted by Raina Roemhildt, Junior ALA Member

Upcoming Events

Bingo- October 4 the Auxiliary will be selling bingo cards and treats.

Bingo - December 6 the Auxiliary will be selling bingo cards and treats.

Save the Date:

Girls Day Out - Thursday, October 5 - Begins at 2PM - Auxiliary (4) Coach purse giveaway at 8:30PM - Must be present to win!

Fall Auxiliary Vendor Fair & Trick or Treating - Saturday, October 28 8AM -1 PM, all vendors spots are full, please contact auxiliarypost37@gmail.com.

New Years Eve Bingo - Saturday, December 30 - 6PM, for more details watch on our Facebook page.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month beginning promptly at 5:30 PM: October 9, November 13, December 11, January 8, 2024, February 12, 2024, March 11, 2024

For any further questions regarding the Auxiliary, contact us at auxiliarypost37@gmail.com

Submitted by Angie Glassel, Auxiliary President

POST 37 AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS (ALR)

Chapter's last quarter consisted of monthly meetings and embracing the riding season. Meetings focused on increasing member numbers, and preparing for the numerous rides throughout the summer. Chapter leadership continues to encourage members to volunteer for Post events. ALR members continue to take their turn assisting in the Post weekly bingo night.

- Members began the summer with our annual Chapter sponsored "Ride for a Reason" event, this ride supports a community member in need. The event was a huge success. Motorcycle and car enthusiast from the area and beyond, enjoyed a fun filled ride, meal afterwards, and helped the Chapter present a healthy check to the designated community member.
- Various Chapter members proudly represented Post 37 ALR in several rides supporting numerous causes in the months of June and July.
- Post 37 ALR members rode to the Minneapolis VA in August to visit veterans at that facility. Also in August, members supported a Post family by providing a funeral escort.

Upcoming meetings will be filled with discussions and planning for 2024, and how we can best support the, Post, active military, veterans, and community members, while recognizing everyone's busy schedule and personal commitments.

Submitted by Tom Christensen-ALR Chapter Director

A flyer for a Friday Night Wing Night event. The background is a close-up of golden-brown fried chicken wings. In the top left corner, there is a white rectangular logo with a blue border that reads "AMERICAN LEGION" with a stylized American flag graphic. To the right of the wings, the text "FRIDAY NIGHT WING NIGHT" is written in a large, bold, black serif font. Below this, the text "FRIDAYS JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT BETTER AT THE LEGION" is written in a smaller, bold, black serif font. At the bottom right, the time "5:00-7:30pm" is listed. Below the time, the phrase "Bone in and Boneless" is written in a simple black font. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code.

AMERICAN LEGION

FRIDAY NIGHT WING NIGHT

FRIDAYS JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT BETTER AT THE LEGION

5:00-7:30pm

Bone in and Boneless

SPOTLIGHT

LEGION MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

TOM HANSON | JULY

Tom Hanson is the July 2023 Legion Member of the Month. Tom served with the Minnesota National Guard with a Unit in Mankato, MN, in the 1960's. He joined the William R. Witty Post #37 shortly after. Tom has served for many years on the Post Honor Guard, participating in many military funerals bestowing Military Honors for deceased Veterans; volunteering frequently at steak frys, fish frys, and omelet breakfasts (got to be known as the "expert" on running the dishwasher machine)! Tom is also a member of the Last Man Club Viet Nam Era of St. Peter.

JIM STEFFENSMEIER | AUGUST

Jim Steffensmeier is the August 2023 Legion Member of the Month. Jim served in the U.S. Army, and interestingly, met up with his brother who was also serving at the same time. Jim has served for many years on the Post Honor Guard, participating in many military funerals, bestowing Military Honors for deceased Veterans. Jim was Gambling Manager for many years, and under his leadership "BINGO" was started at Post #37 resulting in thousands of hours of weekly entertainment to the St. Peter Community. Jim also was a team leader for many steak frys, fish frys, and omelet breakfasts; and frequently can be seen selling cards at weekly BINGO events. Jim is also a member of the Last Man Club Viet Nam Era of St. Peter.

GREG WITTY | SEPTEMBER

Greg Witty is the September 2023 Legion Member of the Month. Greg served with the Minnesota National Guard, St. Peter Unit, during the 1970's. He joined Post #37 shortly after. Greg is a Past Commander, and currently serves as First Vice Commander, leading the membership rosters for the past several years; and is a member of the Post Honor Guard, participating for many years at military funerals bestowing Military Honors for deceased Veterans. He also has led various teams of volunteers for steak frys, fish frys, omelette breakfasts, corn feeds, and BINGO cards; and also leads the Flag Retirement Ceremony for proper disposal of US Flags. Greg is also a member of the Last Man Club Viet Nam War Era of St. Peter.

POST #37 SAYS "THANK YOU" FOR YOUR COUNTLESS HOURS OF VOLUNTEERISM!



Veteran of the Month
August 3, 2023 7:00pm

James Steffensmeier



September Veteran of the Month

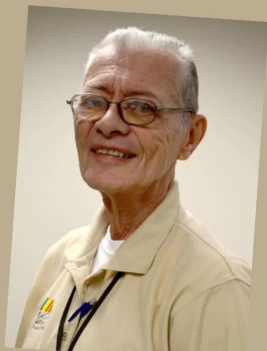
Greg Witty
on
September 7th
Celebration
5:00pm
presentation
6:00pm

HOMETOWN HERO



AUGUST 17, 2023

Windy Block



VETERANS VISITS COMMITTEE

YOUR VETERANS VISIT TEAM HAS BEEN BUSY!

Greetings Veterans!

We have visited our six Senior Living Communities for over a year now. We spend a half hour with each community and visit and hear stories of our senior veterans and their surviving spouses. We remind them that they are not forgotten and we thank them for their service. Yes even the surviving spouses because they had to hold down the fort while their veteran was serving.

We are a small committee as most of our younger members have to work during the day time. Most people ask why we have to visit during the day time and why can't we do it in the evening? Long story short: Our elderly veterans are usually relaxing after their evening meals and are winding down for the night. It is more convenient for THEM for our visits to be in the morning and early afternoon. That's what this program is all about.



Front row: Donna, Marlis, Berniece, Betty, Lois, Clint Back row: Dave A, Ron, Fran and Dave J

I want to thank Melissa Mitchell, Dave Johnson and Bernie Thiemann for being my partners to make the visits happen. Somedays it's just me. I welcome any and all Legion 37 members: Post, Auxiliary, Sal and ALR to join me every Wednesdays following the Post meetings.

We meet by 9:00 AM at Our Legion and either carpool or drive separately to each of the six communities. Our schedule is as follows: Ecumen Sand Prairie 0915-0945, Ecumen Prairie Hill 1000-103, Benedictine Court 1045-1115, Pheasants Ridge 1130-1200, Benedictine Community Care 1215-1245 and Heritage Meadows 1300-1330.

If you are interested in helping out I would really appreciate it. I had to cancel one visit as I had to work that day and no one else was available. I hate when that happens. I like to think that someday I may have to move into a community like this and think it would be great if active veterans would come and visit me. God Bless.

Submitted by Dave Arpin, Veterans Visit Chair, Post 37

Veterans Day PROGRAM

SAINT PETER HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, November 10 at 10 a.m. | Public Welcome



William R. Witty
American Legion Post 37
229 W. Nassau St.
St. Peter, MN 56082

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 9
St. Peter MN 56082

In an effort to reduce cost and waste, only one newsletter will be mailed to each household.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LEGION

Brats and Brews | September 30 | 5–7 p.m.

Donation Fundraiser for Sharon Smith | October 1 | 12–8 p.m.

Girls Night Out | October 5 | 2 p.m.

Karaoke | October 13 | 8:30 p.m.

Paul Stewart Show | October 21 | 7 p.m.

Line Dancing Lessons | October 21 | After the Paul Stewart Show

Fall Vendor Fair & Trick or Treating | October 28 | 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Veterans Day Program | November 10 | 10 a.m.

Elfcapade | December 9 | 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

New Years Eve Bingo | December 30 | 6–9 p.m.

CHECK THE CALENDAR ON FACEBOOK FOR CURRENT EVENTS!

