Volume 8 Issue 1

St. Peter, MN www.post37.com January 2017

William R. Witty American Legion Post 37

NEWSLETTER

LEGION TO KICK OFF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Continuing a long-standing tradition of service

The William R. Witty American Legion Post 37 has served St. Peter area veterans, active duty service members and the local community for nearly 100 years. Our building, a cornerstone of the St. Peter community, is in need of repairs and updates.

In reviewing the upcoming needs of our Post home, the All Boards Committee (comprised of elected officers of the Legion entities) recommended a broader capital campaign to better position the Legion to continue its long-standing tradition of service.

The American Legion is many things to many people. For veterans, it is a place to gather in the camaraderie of shared experience. For members of the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion, it is a place to show gratitude for the service and sacrifice of our soldiers and their families. For non-profit organizations, it is a meeting place and source of financial support. For youth organizations, it is a place for service opportunities and a source of funding. For community members, it is a place to meet family and friends, old and new.

There is a long and rich history of service and support at our Legion; something we Legionnaires should take great pride in. Please be on the lookout for more detailed information about this capital campaign in the near future. Your support allows the Legion to carry a 100-year legacy into the future.

SHARE YOUR STORY!

The All Boards Committee wants to hear YOUR Legion story! What kind of impact has the Legion had on your life? What are your favorite memories at the Legion? Were you involved in organizations that received financial support from the Legion? Tell us all about it!

The Legion is also looking for old photographs of people, events and gatherings at the Club.

Drop off your stories and photos at the Legion or visit post37.com/share-your-story.html. (Leave contact info with the photos and we'll make sure you get them back.)

DID YOU KNOW?

Post 37 has served the St. Peter area since 1920!

COMMANDER'S CORNER

It's always great to remind our fellow veterans about some of the services available to them. Check with your CVSO about the Burn Pit Registry (younger vets), Agent Orange Registry (Vietnam era vets) and Million Man Registry (all vets).

The veteran organizations of Minnesota continue to grow other programs as well. Check with DAV Outdoors for a listing of their activities which include hunting, fishing, golf events, lake and river cruises, road races, trap shoots and more. The local DAV Chapter #10 along with other DAV chapters in southern MN are working on developing a more extensive recreational program for southern MN veterans.

Attendance at monthly meetings has been good. We have a younger (under 50) group of veterans attending and showing interest in the future of OUR organization. At present the Vietnam War Era veteran is the core group of Post membership with an average age of 69 years old. The membership numbers remain steady but we're always looking for new members so encourage your friends, family and neighbors to look into joining!

Your support of the Legion is why we're growing! Please continue to patronize the club, stop in to see old friends and make new ones!

COLOR GUARD UPDATES

The Color Guard participated in a Veterans Day Program at MVL in New Ulm on Nov. 9. Over 300 Veterans attended along with 600-700 others and breakfast was provided to all Veterans.

They also participated in two events for Veterans Day in St. Peter: South Elementary and St. Peter High School. Thank you to the staff and students; you put on tremendous events!

The Color Guard is looking for 4-5 individuals to join its team. If you would be interested in serving in this capacity, please call Ron Davis at (507) 317-3975. They are in the process of ordering new clothing so please call to be included in the fitting.

"What we need are critical lovers of America – patriots who express their faith in their country by working to improve it."
~Hubert Humphrey

LEGION WELCOMES NEW MANAGER

Nicole Cashin accepted the position of House Manager in October 2016. She is excited about this opportunity and has been working closely with the House Committee as she transitions into her new role. Stop down and introduce yourself if you haven't already met her!

A GROWING LEGION

Business is on the rise as we transition with new staff. Make sure to stop by and introduce yourself so they can meet and be proud of the veterans they take pride in serving every day!

NEW MENU RELEASED

The Legion now offers a significantly expanded menu on Wednesday during bingo and on Friday evenings. Come check out the new appetizers, burgers, sandwiches, wraps, salads and more! They're getting rave reviews!

LEGION LOOT FRIDAY DRAWING

Have you signed up for your Legion Loot number yet? If the winner is not present when the number is called, the pot goes up $25 every Friday until someone wins (drawing held between 8:00-8:30pm)! Pot starts over again at $25 after a winning number.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

There really is something for everyone at the Legion: Steak Fry on the first Saturday of the month; Comedy Show on the second Saturday of the month; Senior Dance on the second Tuesday of the month; Omelet Breakfast on the second Sunday of the month; Bingo every Wednesday; Burger Night every Thursday; Full menu and Legion Loot every Friday; and a lot more special events being scheduled!

DID YOU KNOW?
The Honor Guard has been raising the American flag at SPHS football games for 61 years.

AUXILIARY SAYS GOODBYE TO LAST GOLD STAR MOTHER

Behind every son or daughter killed in action, there's a Gold Star Mother. We honor these women that gave up their children that we may enjoy the freedoms we have today.

The Auxiliary of Post 37 said goodbye to its last Gold Star Mother, Jean M. McClellan on Dec. 29, 2016 at the age of 94. Memorial Services were held on January 7, 2017. A dozen red roses honored her memory from the Ladies Auxiliary.

Jean's son, Michael J. McClellan, served in the U.S. Army and was killed in action in Vietnam in 1969. Michael is considered to be one of the "St. Peter Seven." These young men from St. Peter gave their lives during the Vietnam War.

SAL CONTINUES TO SERVE VITAL ROLE

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron serves in a variety of volunteer capacities at the Club for both the Legion and assisting outside groups. They recently worked the kitchen for the Dollars for Scholars event and continue to serve the Legion at bingo, omelet breakfasts, steak fry and fish fry dinners, as well as volunteer at the Red Bulls events.

If you're interested in joining this great group of men, contact Jeff Knutson, membership director, at (507) 469-0691.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Ron Haugen
Commander, Post 37

Dave Arpin
2nd Vice Commander, Post 37

William B. Kastens
Adjutant, Post 37

Dave Johnson
Manager, Gambling

Bernie Thieman
Commander, Honor Guard

Ron Davis
Commander, Color Guard

Heather Tollefson
President, Auxiliary

Ron Neary, Jr.
Commander, SAL

Nicole Cashin
Manager, House

JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED: HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3 SAL Meeting 7pm	4 Bingo 6pm	5 Burger Night 5-7:30pm House Meeting 7:30pm	6 Full Menu 5-7:30pm Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	7 Steak Fry 5:30-8pm
8 Omelet Breakfast 9am-Noon	9 Auxiliary Meeting 5:30pm Post Meeting 7pm	10	11 Bingo 6pm	12 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	13 Full Menu 5-7:30pm Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	14 Comedy Show 7 and 9pm
15	16	17	18 Bingo 6pm	19 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	20 Full Menu 5-7:30pm Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	21
22	23	24	25 Bingo 6pm	26 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	27 **SAL Fish Fry 5-8pm** Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	28 **Winterfest Poker Walk 1-4pm**
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bingo 6pm	2 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	3 Full Menu 5-7:30pm Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	4 Steak Fry 5:30-8pm
5	6 House Meeting 7pm	7 SAL Meeting 7pm	8 Bingo 6pm	9 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	10 Full Menu 5-7:30pm Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	11 Comedy Show 7 and 9pm
12 Omelet Breakfast 9am-Noon	13 Auxiliary Meeting 5:30pm Post Meeting 7pm	14	15 Bingo 6pm	16 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	17 Full Menu 5-7:30pm Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	18 **Karaoke** **8-11pm**
19	20	21	22 Bingo 6pm	23 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	24 Full Menu 5-7:30pm Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	25
26	27	28				

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bingo 6pm	2 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	3 **Fish Fry** **5:30-8pm** Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	4 Steak Fry 5:30-8pm
5	6 House Meeting 7pm	7 SAL Meeting 7pm	8 Bingo 6pm	9 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	10 **Fish Fry** **5:30-8pm** Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	11 Comedy Show 7 and 9pm
12 Omelet Breakfast 9am-Noon	13 Auxiliary Meeting 5:30pm Post Meeting 7pm	14	15 Happy 98th Birthday, American Legion! Bingo 6pm	16 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	17 **Fish Fry** **5:30-8pm** Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	18
19	20	21	22 Bingo 6pm	23 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	24 **Fish Fry** **5:30-8pm** Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	25
26	27	28	29 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Welcome Home! Bingo 6pm	30 Burger Night 5-7:30pm	31 **Fish Fry** **5:30-8pm** Legion Loot 8-8:30pm	

CHARITABLE GAMBLING

The Post recently received the Organizational Annual Report from the MN Gambling Control Board, indicating a 4-Star rating, meaning 40% or more of the net receipts from Charitable Gambling moved forward for Lawful Purpose Expenditures. The highest rating is 5-Star, and for the previous 3 years, Post 37 received a 3-Star rating. Those attending monthly Post meetings receive a full explanation and approve all Allowable Expenses and Lawful Purpose Expenditures before any check is written.

Also noteworthy, is the requirement that if Gross Receipts surpass $750,000, a mandatory CPA audit is required, at an estimated cost of $3,500. Charitable Gambling for Post 37 includes Hobber's Bar and MC Hammers. The Gambling Manager is realizing he is missing some retirement opportunities, and if you're interested in the world of Charitable Gambling please be in contact with him! Remember bingo every Wednesday at 6:00pm, as well as pull-tabs and e-tabs during regular club hours.

LAWFUL PURPOSE EXPENDITURES

36% State & Federal Taxes: $26,805

26% Utilities & Real Estate Taxes: $19,660

GROSS RECEIPTS & PRIZES

$1,073,823
Gross Receipts

$ 891,394
Paid Out in Prizes: 83.11%

MEET YOUR NEW CVSO

Nathan Tish came on board as the County Veterans Service Officer on October 31, 2016. He is a life-long resident of St. Peter, an Iraq War veteran and an active member of the William R. Witty American Legion Post 37 and DAV Chapter 10. Tish serves as the Post Sergeant at Arms and as the Chairman of the Post Scholarship Committee. As for his work as a CVSO, Tish has several short term goals for the Office which include enhancing the outreach effort and increasing accessibility to ensure all Nicollet County veterans are aware of the benefits they may be eligible for. Members of Post 37 have an early advantage here due to Tish's direct connection with the Post.

Tish encourages veterans to stop by the Veteran Services Office in order to ensure updated contact information and proper documentation is on record. You may want to bring a copy of your DD214 and any other pertinent information, which can be scanned and uploaded into their electronic information system for safekeeping. Office hours are traditionally Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm, or by appointment.

CVSO Contact information: (507) 934-7870 or nathan.tish@co.nicollet.mn.us

HONOR GUARD SERVICES

~Joe Weinzierl ~
November 16, 2016
Church of St. Peter & Calgary Cemetary

A NOTE OF THANKS...

Bernie Thieman wishes to thank the Honor Guard members, Legion members, Auxiliary and SAL, for attending his wife Dawn's wake and funeral. Dawn shared many of her talents over the years with the Legion. Some of her contributions included helping Audrey Schmitz decorate the Club Room for the holidays, helping with Honor Guard Super Bowl parties and even assisting with raising the flag at football games and Minnesota Square Park. The Legion will miss you, Dawn!

VETERANS MEMORIAL TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION

The St. Peter Area Veterans Memorial Association announced that construction on the Memorial will begin in the Spring of 2017. The cost for placing a veteran's name on the wall is $250 as of January 1, 2017. To download an application form, please visit www.stpetervetsmemorial.org.

LAST PRINT NEWSLETTER

In an effort to reduce expenses, this will be the last print newsletter mailed out to the membership. The newsletter will continue to be composed in an electronic format. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by email, please visit post37.com/newsletter.html and enter your email address. A limited number of print copies will be available at the Club.

NEW WEBSITE

Have you had a chance to check out our new website yet? It's loaded with information on membership, upcoming events, menu options and more! And even better, it's updated regularly!

www.post37.com

FISH FRY SEASON IS HERE!

It's finally back! The Sons of the American Legion will kick it all off with a Fish Fry on Friday, Jan. 27 from 5-8pm.
Come support the SAL!

The Lenten Fish Fry will begin on Friday, Mar. 3 and run until Friday, Apr. 14 from 5:30-8pm!

St. Peter American Legion

$1.00 OFF Lenten Fish Fry

Bring the family in for dinner!
Good for $1.00 off each meal (up to 4)

Expires 4/14/17

WILLIAM R. WITTY AMERICAN LEGION POST 37
229 WEST NASSAU STREET
SAINT PETER, MN 56082

Have you paid your 2017 dues?

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