



# Struck-Klandrud Post No. 336

## Onalaska American Legion

Chartered May 14, 1921

WEBSITE: WWW.ONALASKAPOST336.ORG

EMAIL: ONALASKALEGION@GMAIL.COM



### A Memorable Event

All 5 Branches of our military are represented in this photo taken at the Post on December 11, 2010, while enjoying a few libations.

L-R: Bob Muth - Marines  
Clarence Stellner - Coast Guard  
Terry Maliczski - Air Force  
Jim Gausmann - Army  
Greg Haug - Navy

## Smell the smelt Legion cooks up year's first fry

by Kari Knutson ([kknutson@lacrossetribune.com](mailto:kknutson@lacrossetribune.com))

ONALASKA – It's just a little fishy. Still, smelt can be an acquired taste.

For Rhonda and Richard Hoeth it's worth a 90-minute trip from Mauston to Onalaska on the minnow-like fish. "I grew up eating this," Richard said. "It's the only time of the year you can't get it."

People lined up early for the Onalaska American Legion's first smelt fry of the year Friday night. Within 20 minutes, they'd already served 113 people.

While it's easy to find a fish fry on any Friday night, a smelt fry is an event for smelt lovers. The Hoeths plan to return to the Legion in February and march for its two other smelt fries and will also make stops at ones in Stoddard and St. Joseph Ridge. That may just tide them over to next January.

A crew of more than 20 helps make the smelt fry happen. Mike Fries, finance officer for the Legion, helps oversee the fry. Half Norwegian, Fries turns his nose to lutefisk but loves some good smelt. "Aren't they cute little stinkers?" Fries said as he eyed a bowl full of fish.

Rags Renstrom's job was to roll them in batter rich with beer. Not too much batter, lot too little. "We've been nibbling away and nibbling away," Renstrom said. "He's already eaten about 25 pounds," Fries said.

Prep work started Wednesday with the cleaning of the fish. They'd already been cleaned, but sometimes a head or two can slip through. "If they've got eyes, you don't want to eat it," said Bill Zillmer of Holmen as he loaded up a plate.

Many have memories of cleaning and catching smelt as kids. Richard Hoeth used to catch them on the Great Lakes, often taking breaks to clean them and fry some up on the spot. At first Rhonda turned her nose to the little fishies. They reminded her too much of the canned sardines her father used to eat. Now she's a converted smelt lover.

"They're best hot," Rhonda said. And tartar helps, as evidenced by the sound of the squirting plastic bottles through the dining room. "You have to get past the smell," Legion commander Jim Nelson said. "If you ate them on a continual basis, you'd get sick of it. It's a seasonal thing."

It may not be a taste everyone acquires, but the Legion will go through 800 to 900 pounds of smelt by its last fish fry. "If you enjoy fish, you have to try smelt," Nelson said. "If not, have a peanut butter sandwich."



**CORRECTION: The next Smelt Fry will be held on March 25th.**  
Not on March 2 as incorrectly reported in the February Newsletter

## **Officers:**

Commander:  
**Jim Nelson - 783-1715**

1st Vice:  
**Ralph Amundsen**

2nd Vice:  
**Rich Musolf**

3rd Vice:  
**Clarence Stellner**

Adjutant:  
**Ray Kline**

Finance Officer:  
**Mike Fries**

Judge Advocate:  
**Todd Bjerke**

Chaplain:  
**Claude Deck**

Service Officer:  
**Vern Reekers - 783-3913**

Historian:  
**Bill Jaekel**

Sgt. at Arms  
**Willie Fernholz**

Editor:  
**BILL JAEKEL**  
**608-783-3623**  
**wrjkl@charter.net**

## **Legionnaires, Auxiliary, S.A.L., and Friends**

### **GREETINGS TO ALL FROM THE COMMANDER:**

It is my guess that just about everyone has had enough snow this winter. Except for the snowmobilers & skiers. March can usually give us anything from a blizzard to spring weather. If I recall, we had snow on Easter in the past. One thing for sure, we can't do much about the weather except complain. Have a great March and think spring.

Update on my bride. A recent high-lite was the wedding of our son. Sandy made it through it all but took about a week to get her strength back. Her condition has not changed much. She is still very weak, unable to use her right hand & arm & uses oxygen most of the time. Again we want to thank all who have expressed their concern and support for her.

The Veterans Memorial bench and brick requests will be due March 14th. Applications are available at the Post. Benches \$750, bricks, \$50. We also have Blue Star Banners for those who have a family member on Active Duty. We also have Gold Star Banners for those that had a family member killed in the line of duty. Contact the Post if you wish to get either a Blue or Gold Star Banner.

We have been going strong on all of our programs at the Post. March 25th will be our last Smelt Fry until January 2012. Fish Fry and Chicken & Dumplings seem to be a real favorite.

We have just made contact with the Veterans Coordinator at Globe University. We now have connections at UW-L, Viterbo, Western Tech & now Globe. Our Veterans Outreach Liaison is in contact with those groups to ensure veterans are aware of their benefits.



As you will note, our newsletter is no longer in color. It was the decision of the Executive Committee, due to the cost, that the newsletter would return to a black and white format.

Onalaska Nite for Freedom Honor Flight, June 11, 2011, 4-11pm. Come and join us for an evening of fun, food & gaming with all proceeds going to Freedom Honor Flight. Studebaker 7 and Happy's Garage will be in the Activity Center. Music from 4-11pm. Gaming, silent auction and door prizes will be in the Post Dining Hall from 6-10pm. Tickets will be \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Put this on your calendar as it's going to be a great night at the Legion. This is a heads-up; more information will be in each newsletter thru June.

Last month it was announced that our Legion Baseball team will be hosting the 2012 State Legion Baseball Tournament. This is a great honor and we commend our Baseball Committee for pursuing the

Tournament for Onalaska and Post 336. We have seen an increase in new faces at the Legion participating in our many programs. It's good to see so many come to our Post for their entertainment and leisure time activities.

We also have seen an increase in our membership, new and transfers. We welcome you all and if you see any of our officers on your visits, say hello and introduce yourself.

By-the-way: For all of you that have not paid your 2011 dues yet, please do so. For all of you that have paid your 2011 dues, thank you.

Remember to fly the flag. God Bless the men and women in uniform serving our country, their families and our veterans. God Bless America!

*Jim Nelson, Commander*

## ***Service Officers Report***

*~ SICK CALL ~*

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*~ LAST BUGLE ~*

**DONALD GAMBLE**  
**ROBERT GUENTNER**  
**DUANE JUEN**

*Vern Reekers - Service Officer*

### **THE ONALASKA LEGION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**Publication No. 3-2011**

**Issue Date - MARCH, 2011**

**Published by:** American Legion Post 336  
731 Sand Lake Road  
P.O. Box 326  
Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650



## S.A.L.

Commander: **Todd (Doc) Hagel**  
1st Vice: **Bill Sterling**  
2nd Vice: **Bob Weber**  
Adjutant: **Ray Kline**  
Sgt. at Arms:  
**Steve Yonkovich - John Marcou**  
Chaplain: **Matt Wobeck**  
SAL Advisor: **Clarence Stellner**

## S.A.L.

Well spring is here I hope, but I'm thinking it's just a tease. Let's hope not! Our breakfast dates for this month are on the 13th and 27<sup>th</sup> of March, 8:00 am till noon. Bar also opens at 8:00 am with drink specials. Our freedom flight breakfast is attentively set for May 8th. It will start at 8:00 am and run till noon if the food holds out; otherwise it's on a first come first serve basis.

We also have a number of unpaid dues, so if you haven't paid, please let's get them in so we can update our membership to state. If they are paid to late your name will not be on next year's spread sheet.

*Todd (Doc) Hagel*

## Membership

Come on springtime! It's hard to believe that March is already upon us.

Membership-wise, we are proceeding about normally. We are at almost 90% of our targeted membership goal for membership year 2011. As usual, we have those that are tardy in renewing dues. How about just stopping by or dropping your dues in the mail now so we can close our Membership books for renewals. Thank you.

We have a number of new and transferred members for our Post. Please say thank you and welcome to Thomas Taylor, Raymond Becker, Glenn Spicer, Raymond Happel, and Jack Moser.

Don't forget to join as at one of our many activities.

*Ralph Amundsen, 1st Vice Commander*

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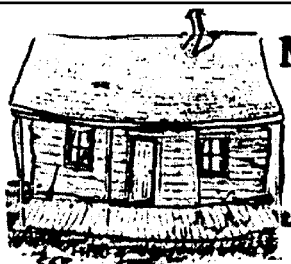
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## Auxiliary:

President:  
**Diane Ryan - 792-6488**  
1st Vice:  
**Bev Mahlum - 526-3719**  
2nd Vice: **Cindy Buckholtz**  
Secretary:  
**Mary Boardman**  
Treasurer: **Colleen Kujak**  
Historian:  
**Cynthia Buckholtz**  
Sgt. at Arms:  
**Judy Chesebro &  
La Vonne Rivers**  
Chaplain:  
**Eunice Christensen**  
Members at Large:  
**Mary Boardman &  
Nancy Hurm**  
Parliamentarian:  
**Delores Kenyon**  
Sunshine Chairwoman:  
**Liz Reekers**

## Auxiliary

Finally the snow is melting, the temperature is in the 40s and spring is right around the corner. With spring comes Ash Wednesday and Easter, which again falls on our meeting night. So if this happens in our standing rules it states to move our meeting to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. So ladies our meeting in March will be on MARCH 16TH. At our March meeting we will be having initiation of new members. The new members are: Laurie Tweten, Sandy Myself, Mary Gremier and Amanda Christianson. Come to the meeting and help welcome them into our unit.

March is also Community Service month. Ladies think of ways you can help in your communities. Mark Twain wrote that "KINDNESS IS A LANGUAGE WHICH THE DEAF CAN HEAR AND THE BLIND CAN SEE". An unknown author wrote these words; THE 2 MOST IMPORTANT WORDS ARE "THANK YOU". THE IMPORTANT single WORD IS "WE" AND THE LEAST IMPORTANT WORD IS "I". Let's put these quotes to good use in our communities by saying "THANK YOU" to our Veterans for their service to our country. Show "KINDNESS" to all the people in our communities. "WE" as a unit can make a bigger difference than just "I" by myself.

We still have 70 plus members that haven't paid their dues. Ladies if you are one of them please pay your dues.

It was my honor to present Maureen Smith a certificate and pin for being a member "50 years". Thank you Maureen for all the years of dedication and hard work. I personally want to thank you for the memories at our bowling tournaments and of course BINGO. Also remember the night that I realized I was the only person in the room that had her own teeth. I could go on forever but I will just say "THANKS OF THE MEMORIES".

Wilma Dettinger and Laurie Tweten wanted me to give everyone a heads up on the upcoming events being held in April. On April 20th, at our club rooms, the Freedom Honor Flight Committee is having their KICK OFF NIGHT and then on JUNE 11TH ONALASKA NIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM HONOR FLIGHT will have their fundraiser. More detail will follow next month but keep those 2 dates open.

Elaine Schickowski and her family will be taking over the Children's Christmas Party. Roger and Marge Saley and family have given many years as leaders for that party for the Legion. Let us all thank them and wish them well for a job well done.

There is still time for any bowler interested in bowling in the 9 pin tap tournament held in Green Bay on April 2nd and 3rd and 9th and 10th. The entries have to be post marked no later than March 14th.

April brings the 7th District Spring Conference to La Crosse on April 16th, at Post 52. I hope that being close to home all of our members will try to make it. If you are interested please let us know at the March meeting.

In our March packet from Department under National Security section came this article: Senate Resolution Designates Gold Star Wives Day. For the first time America officially recognizes the contribution and dedication of military widows with Gold Star wives Day. A Senate resolution designated December 18, 2010 as the day to honor and recognize the contributions of the members of the Gold Star Wives of America Inc. The group, with about 10,000 members, provides services, support and gives friendships to the widows and widowers of military personal who died on active duty or as the result of a service-connected cause. It sure took them long enough to do this. I just found it interesting and hope that you do too.

Our serving committee for March is: Carol Summerfeld 783-1862, Phyllis Wilson 783-4228, Anita LeFebre 781-7722 and Etta Caroline Erickson 782-1657

Ladies it is time to start think who you would like to lead our Auxiliary for the next two years. We will be putting the nomination committee together soon with elections in May.

*Remember our Veterans and their Families.*

*Diane Ryan - President*

**Great Gift/Remembrance**  
**Give A "Brick"**  
for a loved one or friend who has served his or her country

Applications Available at the Onalaska Legion




MARCH 2011

**Legion Baseball Collecting Cans**

The Baseball Committee of our Legion Post 336 has a site in the parking lot to collect aluminum cans to raise money for our Legion Baseball. All are encouraged to donate their aluminum cans to this most worthy cause!


MARCH 2011

**AMERICA IS AT WAR**  
**A tradition continues**



A Blue Star Service Banner in the window of a home shows a family's pride in their loved one serving in the U.S. Armed Forces - and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands great sacrifice.

To each and every one who serves, we say "thank you."



The American Legion Family  
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# FROM THE EDITOR

Did you know you could read the Onalaska Legion Post 336 Newsletter online at: [www.onalaskapost336.org](http://www.onalaskapost336.org) ?

By opting out of receiving the print edition of the newsletter, you can save the Post money and get the information sooner! The online edition of the Legion Newsletter is usually available 2-3 days before the newsletter hits your mailbox. Provide us with your e-mail address and we will notify you each month when the latest edition is available on our site.

I no longer wish to receive the Print edition of the Legion Newsletter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:** If there is an Auxiliary or SAL member in your household, they must also opt out of the print version or it will continue to be mailed to your home. Return this filled out form to Onalaska American Legion Post 336, 731 Sand Lake Road, Onalaska WI 54650 or email the information to Bill Jaekel, wrjkl@charter.net .

MARCH 2011

## Food - Fun - Friends

**Veterans and the Public Welcome  
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## What's Your Current ID Number?

Somewhere in this newsletter is a member's membership number. If it's your number you win \$10.00 - easy way to get \$10.00. If it's your number call: Ralph Amundsen: 783-7599



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## La Crosse County Aging Unit



Do you have some spare time? Would you like to feel good about helping the great community of Onalaska?

We are looking for people to deliver meals to homebound seniors and to help out at the Onalaska Senior Dining Center.

Who knows you may see your neighbor there?

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MARCH 2011

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## 2011 Terry Eggen Memorial Scholarship

The Terry Eggen Memorial Scholarship began in 2002 to honor the Memory of Terry Eggen, Onalaska Legion Post Commander in '80, '81, and '82. A Vietnam vet, Terry was a long-term member of the Onalaska American Legion Post #336 and donated a great deal of time and labor in his strong support of Youth Programs, at the Legion level.

**AMOUNT:** \$750.00 check made out to the College to which the student is enrolled.

**SCHOOLS:** Must be enrolled as a full-time student in a 2 or 4 year College.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Must write a 500 word, or less, paper on "Americanism". Must be a Legion Member of Post 336 or, Spouse, Child/Step Child, or Grandchild of an active member of Post 336. (If not a member, submit the name of the active member and relationship.) **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the **COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2011.**

**SELECTION:** Will be decided by the "Terry Eggen Memorial Scholarship Committee".

**CONTACT PERSON:** 2nd Vice Commander, Rich Musolf, Struck-Klandrud Post No. 336, American Legion, 731 Sand Lake Road, P.O. Box 326, Onalaska, WI 54650

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**RENEWALS - NEWSLETTER ADS ...** We will be communicating with the current newsletter advertisers to determine if they wish to continue to advertise with us. Ads are available on a one-year basis, Jan. thru Dec. 2009. Sizes available are a 2"x2" @ \$50./year and a 2"x3.75" @ \$80./year. The larger ad is horizontal. All payments must be made for the full year, payable in advance. New ad space will open up if there are some non-renewals. The space will be made available on a first-come first-served basis for new advertisers. Questions, comments and ad purchase should be directed to Bill Jaekel at 608-783-3623 between the hours of 9am and 5pm. If needed, leave a message. My email is wrjkl@charter.net. All phone calls and emails will be returned. Thank You, Bill Jaekel, Newsletter Editor.

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**Jeff Pralle**  
Realtor



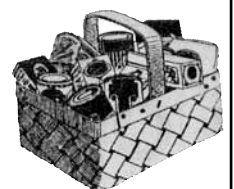
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The Food Basket is serving an increasing number of people and requests donations of food and money.





Donated items can be brought to:  
735 Sand Lake Rd. - Mon.-Sat., 9-11am

Checks may be sent to:  
Onalaska-Holmen Food Basket  
P.O. Box 311, Onalaska, WI 54650



MARCH 2011

# March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Wings & Shrimp 4:30 - 7:00PM	2 Chicken & Dumplings 4:30 - 7:00 PM	3 Tacos 11:00AM - 2:00PM Burger Night 4:30 - 8:00PM Texas Hold'Em 6:00PM	4 Buck Hollow Band 7:30 - 11:30 PM	5 Alexis Barton Leukemia Benefit
6	7 Onalaska J C's Meeting 7:00PM	8 NARVE Meeting 10:00AM  Wings & Shrimp 4:30 - 7:00PM  Irishfest Board Mtg. 5:30 PM	9 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	10 Tacos 11:00AM - 2:00PM Burger Night 4:30 - 8:00PM Texas Hold'Em 6:00PM	11 Fish Fry 4:30 - 7:00 PM  Karaoke Plus 7:30 - 11:30 PM	12 Lisa Lane Benefit 4:00 PM Dining Hall   Stephanie's Birthday
13 	14 <u>Executive Committee</u> 6:00PM  <u>Membership Meeting</u> 7:00PM	15 Wings & Shrimp 4:30 - 7:00PM	16 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00PM	17 <u>Texas Hold'Em</u> 6:00PM <u>Corned Beef &amp; Cabbage</u> 11:00AM - 8:00PM 	18 Stoney Ridge Band 7:30 - 11:30 PM	19 Eagle 102.7 Dance Annual listener dance Studebaker 7 6:00 - 11:00 PM
20 Reunion 32nd Engineer Co. Reforger 1:00PM D.R.  	21 BLET Div 3 Meeting  Onalaska J C's Meeting 7:00PM	22 <u>Wings &amp; Shrimp</u> 4:30 - 7:00PM  <u>Building Comm. Mtg.</u> 5:30PM <u>House Comm. Mtg</u> 6:30PM	23 Boy Scout Chicken Q 4:00 PM Dining Hall	24 Tacos 11:00AM - 2:00PM Burger Night 4:30 - 8:00PM Texas Hold'Em 6:00PM	25 Free Beer & Naked Karaoke 7:30 - 11:30 PM  Smelt Fry 4:30 - 7:00 PM	26
27 SAL Breakfast 8:00AM - Noon	28	29 Wings & Shrimp 4:30 - 7:00PM	30	31 Tacos 11:00AM - 2:00PM Burger Night 4:30 - 8:00PM Texas Hold'Em 6:00PM		

**ONALASKA AMERICAN LEGION • POST 336 • 731 SAND LAKE ROAD • PHONE (608) 783-3300**  
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## Texas Hold'Em

Our season has started with a big high for the senior citizen players. Our first winner was Bob Gowlander (80 something), sure showed the young wipper snappers. All kidding aside, we had a small start, but great players and lots of fun. A booby prize was given to the first out (I'll keep his name quiet). He also won a free buffet breakfast donated by the S.A.L. For their great breakfast on Sunday morning.

*Til next month hope spring gets here soon, and more players show up.*

*Pit Bosses; Les, Jerry, and the Pit Bull Clarence (Jerry still in Florida)*

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 at 783-5120.**

**Meetings are every  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 10:00 am  
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**MARCH 2011 Newsletter**  
**Onalaska, WI 54650**

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## **Struck-Klandrud Post No. 336**

### **American Legion**

731 Sand Lake Road • P.O. Box 326

Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650

Phone (608) 783-3300



### **Veterans Outreach Liaison**

Yes it is winter but better days are coming. I just ran over a few worms in my driveway and spring starts on Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>!!!

**HIT TECH. INFORMATION.** If you use your computer on the Internet there is a new tool out there. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has created a new outreach tool designed to make it easier for Wisconsin veterans of all ages and eras to learn about important developments and issues that may affect you. The WISCONSIN REGISTRY and the WDVA FACEBOOK page are new ways of reaching out to the state's more than 417,000 veterans.

The **WISCONSIN VETERANS REGISTRY** is an email registry that sends automatic updates whenever developments occur on health issues, hazard exposures and state and federal benefits and services. Veterans can find a link to sign up for the free registry at the WDVA website: [www.WisVets.com](http://www.WisVets.com).

Newly returned veterans are often busy reintegrating back to civilian life. Over time, older veterans may become less connected to service-related news and updates. The voluntary registry helps overcome those challenges by delivering key information directly to veterans via email. Using **FACEBOOK** as another way to connect delivers good information to veterans, and perhaps more importantly, allows them to connect with each other through the popular social media site.

The **WISCONSIN VETERANS REGISTRY** is open to all Wisconsin veterans; their family, friends and anyone concerned about veteran's issues. Veterans are encouraged to sign up for the WISCONSIN VETERANS REGISTRY to begin receiving updates immediately.

**MOBILE DIABETES CLINIC.** The Tomah Veterans Mobile Clinic began its official visitation schedule in February. The mobile clinic will be at the Onalaska Post 336 the fourth Thursday of every month. There have been some changes and clarification to the clinic visits. From Tracey Lane-Belcher, ICCM Program Manager:

"We are a mobile clinic for veterans who have diabetes that meet specific criteria. A VA doctor based on the specific must refer the veteran criteria. So, the veteran must qualify for the program. The veteran must have established care at the VA or be eligible to establish care at the VA (once done and assigned a provider- they then be referred.)"

We ARE NOT an open access program that any veteran can show-up. The veteran must have an appointment through the VA system."

Just remember its spring in a few more weeks. See you at the Club.

*Thom Downer - Veterans Outreach Liaison, Onalaska Post 336*