

May 23, 2011 Post Meeting 6 p.m. Start

There were no main entrée volunteers so we are going to go with some fixins that was not used up when the Post did the 5K Run / Walk this past Saturday – hot dogs grilled. (Don't worry the ones we have Monday won't have been grilled since Saturday – these are the ones that were kept on ice and not grilled.) Meeting location will be – repeat that – meeting location will be Trindle Park -- just south of the Van Meter School on R16 – if you go past The Van Meter Cemetery or F90 – you have gone too far. If the weather is too bad – we will divert the meeting to the Van Meter School lunchroom. Potluck side dishes are encouraged and it would be an excellent time to bring along spouse and/or new member and enjoy the outdoor weather – we hope.

Events Coming Up

May 27, 2011 State Cemetery Flag Help

Keith at the State Cemetery has again asked the Post if we could help set out flags for Memorial Day – I said “yes”. Keith would like to do this on Friday, May 27, 2011 – he gave us option of 8 – 8:30 a.m. start or 3 p.m. start. I told him I would expect the 8 a.m. start would be the preferred – but told Keith we would finalize at Post May 23 meeting and get back to him. Keith enjoys our member support and very much appreciates Post help. In checking the funeral schedule – they have a ceremony at 10 and another at 2 – both are cremations so are shorter in maintenance staff work.

May 30, 2011 Memorial Day

The Post Ceremony will again be held at the State Veterans Cemetery on May 30, 2011 at 6 P. M. Post members should expect to help with the ceremony in form of either Color Guard / Honor Guard – usher – setup – tear down activities. Sign up list will be available at the Post meeting on May 23.

June 4, 2011 Raccoon River Days

Candy Brown is stressing that Post members make their presence known this year in the parade – so (1) float riders – as many as possible -- are needed for that portion of the day activities. (2) Second activity is the youth games portion that this year will be held on the street where the Post Office and City Hall are located. This starts immediately after the parade – somewhere in the 11 a.m. timeframe -- set up – game carney – tear down – need at least 10 – 12 members and subs to spell these 10 -12. Games will be the old ones from prior years or if you have one you want to start – bring it on in and we'll give it a go. It has been mentioned to start adding some older contestant games – so bring it in and let's give it a shot. (3) The Post Great Legion Duck Escape activity will be occurring at 2 p.m. down around the Van Meter Recreation Complex -- rubber ducks will be racing down the Raccoon River – starting

from the river fork on Highway 169. Post will be getting some help from Van Meter Fire and Rescue in capturing the ducks as they cross the finish line. Members are to have been selling rubber ducks in advance at \$5 each. Post volunteers will be needed in numbering the ducks, grooming the ducks, and duck collections at the end of the race – More information will be available at the Post meeting May 23, 2011.

As you can see – a full slate of members is needed to make all of these activities be successful.

Watch My Grave

As we approach this Memorial Day – this is a reminder to all of us to continue to be vigilante in remembering our comrades we served with or who served before us. Just as in our service days where we watched over each other – we must continue to do that for our comrades after their death. If you are visiting a cemetery, please be cognizant of the gravesites of other veterans – if the marker needs replaced or installed or the flag is needing repair, -- jot the info down and the Post can work with the County Veterans Affairs Officer to make things as our comrades would have wanted. I recently received a phone call from the son of one of our comrades -- his grandfather's grave had a WW II and should have been WW I, his mother's grave was missing WW II entirely; his father's WW II grave was good and so were the graves of his uncles and cousins nearby – but he wondered if the Post could correct the marker on his grandfather and add the marker for his mother who passed away in 2010. The family names were Guthrie and Murphy. Was a correction made – you can visit their gravesites in the Van Meter Cemetery just off R16 – they are on the left side of the cemetery surrounding road – center portion and about half way down – right near two trees standing within 12' of each other?

Post Building and Land Committee

Next meeting to be held, May 22, 2011 at 5 p.m. at the Craft Cottage – if you need directions on how to get there call Gary Wemer at 996-2051 – he lives close to it and can guide you there. Marketing CD and materials are high on the topic list along with gazebo discussion, and developments with City and neighbors on utilities and street access.

Post Fundraising Committee

This group also continues to be busy as evidenced by the Armed Forces 5K Run/Walk – thank you Toby Hoy, Ed McNair, Candy Brown – and all of you other members in setup, race traffic controller, tear down, etc. Meetings of this group are on every Tuesday at the Wells Fargo Bank – meetings start at 6:30 p.m.—the first Tuesday of each month is the exception – on this meeting day – it has been held at the Craft Cottage.