

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS GERMANTOWN MEMORIAL POST #9202 MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Seventeen comrades attended the May 28, 2008 meeting. A motion was made to accept the Adjutants minutes before they were read as the minutes were posted in the newsletter. It was seconded and carried by a majority of ayes. The Quartermaster report was read and a motion was made to accept the report, it was seconded and the motion carried. Comrade Gilbert Lucka was reinstated into the Post and Comrade Bernie Goecks's transfer to the Post was approved. The election was held and the offices were filled with the following Comrades:

- Commander – Comrade Darrell Brown
- Sr. Vice Commander – Comrade Jim Heimann
- Jr. Vice Commander – Comrade Jim Roberts
- Quartermaster – Comrade Ken Puls
- Adjutant – Comrade Daniel Schlegel
- Service Officer/Chaplain – Comrade Paul Bollman Rev.

There was a discussion as to whether a \$150.00 donation was made to the VA Chapel to help in the restoration of the Civil War Chapel. As there was no unfinished business we moved into new business which was the final nomination and election. The swearing in of officers will be done on the May 19 meeting. The Memorial was discussed and it was approved to put Comrade William f. Hustad will be put on the wall and that next year the Post will pick up half of the bill for this recognition. It was discussed that it would help in the Public Relations for the Post. Sr Vice Commander Jim Heimann explained how the names are sandblasted into the wall. There was a motion made to on form a color guard in conjunction with the American Legion and that the Post pays for the Shirts. This motion was seconded and carried by voice vote and if you are interested in being on the Color Guard please call Comrade Heimann at (262) 377-2613 after 5pm.

At the May 19th meeting we will State Senator Alberta Darling and Department Commander William Hustad in attendance. If you can make this meeting I highly recommend that you attend.

It is highly recommended that if you have not registered your Discharge Papers or DD – 214 that you do so. You can mail a **certified copy** to the County Veterans Service Officer, Mark Baldwin, 432 East Washington Street, P.O. Box 1986, West Bend, WI 53095-7986. If you move or have a fire and the original is destroyed there will be one available from the County Service Officer. Under the Privacy Act of 1974 no one will have access to these records except you and the Service Officer and him for official business only.



The Sr Vice Commander, Jim Heimann and myself attending the Germantown Village Board just prior to presenting the Certificate of appreciation to the Village President, Tom Kempinski, of Germantown.



Darrell Brown the Commander of Germantown Memorial Post 9202 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars presenting the Village of Germantown President, Tom Kempinski, with a Certificate of Appreciation. The certificate was presented on April 21, 2008 in appreciation for flying the POW/MIA flag in its rightful place beneath the American Flag at the Village Hall. The village was educated on the meaning of the POW/MIA Flag as this presentation was broadcast live on channel 25 "GovernmentAccess" in the Germantown Area.

DEATH PENSION BENEFITS

VA Death Pension for Widows/Widowers and Dependent Children: A death pension is a needs based benefit paid to an unmarried surviving spouse, or an unmarried child of a deceased wartime veteran. You may be eligible for this benefit if:

- The deceased veteran was **discharged** from service with a discharge no lower than **other than dishonorable conditions**
- The deceased veteran **served at least 90 days** of active military service **1 day** of which was during a war time period. If they entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally they must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. (There are exceptions to this rule.)
- Your countable income is below a yearly limit set by the law (The yearly limit on income is set by Congress and not the VA.)

As you can see, there are a number of criteria that may affect your eligibility to pension benefits. If you are unsure if you meet all the criteria, I encourage you to go ahead and file the application. The VA will determine if you are eligible and notify you of their decision. If you do not initially qualify, you may reapply if you have un-reimbursed medical expenses during the twelve month period after VA receives your claim that brings your countable income below the yearly income limit. (These are expenses you have paid for medical services or products for which you will not be reimbursed by Medicare or private medical insurance.) There is no age restriction for the spouse but a child must be:

- Under 18
- In school and under 23
- Was incapable of self support before the age of 18.

Countable income for pension eligibility includes income received from most sources by the surviving spouse and any eligible children. It includes earnings, disability and retirement payments, interest and dividends, and net income from farming or business. There is a presumption that all of a child's income is available to or for the surviving spouse. VA may grant an exception in hardship cases. Certain expenses like **medical expenses may be excluded** from your annual income to lower the total countable income.

There are **exclusions to income or deductions that may be made to reduce countable income**. Some examples are as follows:

- Final expenses of the veteran's last illness and burial paid by the surviving spouse or eligible children.
- Public assistance such as Supplemental Security Income is not considered income.

- Many other specific sources of income are not considered income, however all income should be reported. VA will exclude any income that the law allows.
- A portion of un-reimbursed medical expenses paid by the claimant after VA receives your pension claim may be deducted.
- Certain other expenses, such as a surviving spouse's education expenses, and in some cases, a portion of the educational expenses of a child over 18 are deductible.

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in **addition** to monthly pension when:

- The claimant requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting them from hazards of their daily environment
- The claimant is bedridden, in that their disability or disabilities remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment
- The claimant is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity
- The claimant is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

Housebound is paid to a claimant when the claimant is substantially confined to their immediate premises because of permanent disability. The survivor may not receive Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time.

- You may apply for Aid and Assistance or Housebound benefits by writing to the VA regional office having jurisdiction of the claim. That would be VA Regional Office, 5400 West National Avenue Room 166, Milwaukee, WI 53214-9412, telephone (414) 902-5748 or toll free (800) 827-1000 ext 13007.
- You should include copies of any evidence, preferably a report from an attending physician validating the need for Aid and Attendance or Housebound type of care. The report should be in sufficient detail to determine whether there is disease or injury
- The report should be in sufficient detail whether there is a disease or injury producing a physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable.
- In addition, it is necessary to determine whether the claimant is confined to the home or immediate premises.
- Whether the claim is for Aid and Attendance or Housebound, the **report should indicate how well the individual gets around**, where you go and what you are able to do during a typical day.

You can apply for **Death Pension benefits** by filling out **VA Form 21-534, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by Surviving Spouse or Child**. If available, attach copies of dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates). You must send the completed application and any copies of other documents to the VA Regional Office, 5400 West National Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53214-9412.

POWER

Last month, I discussed Setting/Achieving Health Goals. This month I want to briefly discuss Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention as May is the designated month to promote this awareness. Using the guidelines to set a good goal for skin cancer (melanoma) detection:

- Clear – Protects one's self from Ultraviolet radiation.
- Measurable – No sun burns.
- Time Limits – Summertime starting now.
- Realistic – Avoid midday sun by wearing long sleeves, long pants, and a hat with a brim.

Strategy:

1. Schedule outdoor activity early morning or late afternoon.
2. Ask for assistance in applying sunscreen lotion.
3. Wear sunglasses that have UV absorbing lenses.

The most important sign for melanoma is a change in size, shape or color of a mole or other skin growth such as a birthmark. Watch for changes that occur over a period of one month to one or two years.

Being A Mother

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said “I love you, but I know the other woman loves you and would love to spend some time with you.”

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my Mother, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie. “What’s wrong, are you well,” she asked? My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news. “I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you,” I responded “just the two of us.” She thought about it for a moment, and then said “I would like that very much.”

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary.

She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel’s. “I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed,” she said, as she got into the car. “They can’t wait to hear about our meeting.” We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Half way through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw Mother sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips.

“It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small,” she said. “Then it’s time that you relax and let me return the favor,” I responded. During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation nothing extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each other’s life. We talked so much that we missed the movie. As we arrived at her house later, she said, “I’ll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you.” I agreed.

“How was your dinner date?” asked my wife when I got home. “Very nice, much more so than I could have imagined,” I answered. A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn’t have a chance to do anything for her. Sometime later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place Mother and I had dined. An attached note said: “I paid this bill in advance. I wasn’t sure that I could be there; but nevertheless, I paid for two plates – one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you son.” At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time: “I love you” and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than our family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off until “some other time.”

Somebody said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you’ve had a baby....that somebody doesn’t know that once you’re a mother, “normal” is history.

Somebody said you can’t love the second child as much as you love the first....that somebody doesn’t have two or more children.

Somebody said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery....that somebody never watched her ‘baby’ get on the bus for the first day of kindergarten...or on a plane headed for military ‘boot camp.’

Somebody said a Mother can stop worrying after her child gets married....well that somebody doesn’t know that marriage adds a new son or daughter-in-law to a Mother’s heartstrings.

Somebody said a Mother’s job is done when her last child leaves home....that somebody never had grandchildren.

Somebody said your Mother knows you love her, so you don’t need to tell her....that somebody isn’t a Mother.

Pass this along to all the ‘Mothers’ in your life and to everyone who ever had a mother. This isn’t just about being a Mother; it’s about appreciating the people in your lives while you have them....no matter who that person is.

‘Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.’

The Robot

John was a salesman’s delight when it came to any kind of unusual gimmick. His wife Marsha has long ago given up trying to get him to change. One day, John came home about noon and told Marsha that he had gone to a nearby city and purchased a Robot. It was no ordinary robot, but it was in fact a Lie Detector. He said it had to charge for 4 or 5 hours, and then he would show her how it worked.

At 5:30 that afternoon, Tommy, their 11 year old son, came in from school, nearly 2 hours and 15 minutes late. Both parents were understandably angry. “Where have you been? Why are you over 2 hours late getting home?” they asked. “Several of us went to the library to work on an extra credit project,” said Tommy.

The robot walked around the table and slapped Tommy, knocking him completely out of his chair. “Son, this robot is a lie detector; now tell us where you went after school.” “We went to Bobby’s house and watched a movie.” “What did you watch?” asked Marsha. “The Ten Commandments.” The robot went around the table once again and slapped him, knocking him off his chair. With lip quivering, Tommy got up, sat down and said “I am sorry I lied. We really watched a tape called Sex Queen.”

“I’m ashamed of you Son,” said John. “When I was your age, I never lied to my parents, never tried to see dirty pictures much less dirty movies, told dirty jokes, nor did I misbehave.” The robot walked around to John and delivered a roundhouse right that not only knocked him out of his chair, but out the back door and half way across the patio.

When he came back inside, Marsha was bent double laughing, almost in tears. “Boy, did you ever ask for that one! And you can’t be too mad with Tommy. After all, he is your son!”

The robot immediately walked around to Marsha, and literally slapped the crap out of her, not once, but three times.

Dusty Underwear

One evening a husband, thinking he was being funny, said to his wife “Perhaps we should start washing your clothes in Slim Fast. Maybe it would take a few inches off of your Butt.” His wife was not amused, and decided that she simply couldn’t let such a comment go unrewarded. The next morning the husband took a pair of underwear out of his drawer.

“What the hell is this?” he said to himself as a little ‘dust’ cloud appeared when he shook them out. “April,” he hollered into the bathroom, “Why did you put talcum powder in my underwear?” She replied with a snicker ... “It’s not talcum powder.....It’s ‘Miracle Grow’.”

Police Joke

A state trooper is driving down the highway when he sees a truck driver pull over, walk to the side of the truck with a tire iron, bang on the side of the truck a few times, and then drive away. A couple of miles down the road the driver does the same thing. A few more miles, same thing. The trooper pulls the truck over and asks the driver to explain. The driver says, “Well, the load limit is ten tons, and I’m carrying fifteen tons of parakeets, so I’ve got to keep some of them flying around.”

Darrell Brown
Commander
(262) 251-9037

LADIES AUXILIARY

GERMANTOWN MEMORIAL POST #9202

APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER

Greeting Sisters:

To all Mom's – Happy Mother's Day!

Many events happen in May besides Mother's Day. I'm sure that many of you are involved with assorted events with your family and friends. For Post 9202 and its Auxiliary its Buddy Poppy Time! Our weekend is Armed Forces Weekend – how appropriate! We are looking for extra volunteers. Donations collected by the Auxiliary will stay in the Auxiliary. This money is placed in our Relief Fund is used for donations to programs such as Operation Uplink, Snowball Express, Fisher House, and Disaster Relief just to name a few. This fund is also used to send "Care Packages" to our Active Duty Comrades who have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. Essentially the Buddy Poppy money is for our Veterans and their families. Buddy Poppy weekend is 16 thru 17 May and any help will be greatly appreciated, you can call me at (262) 251-9037 if you are able to spare a couple of hours for this very worthy endeavor.

At our next meeting on 19 May State Senator Alberta Darling will be the guest speaker. We are invited to listen and ask questions. Senator Darling works very hard to help the Veterans and Senior Citizens. Please come and listen to what she has to say and our meeting will begin afterward. During this meeting we will have the installation of this year's officers.

Our last meeting was attended by 6 sisters. Important Department (State) news was read. Since June 1 is VFW Day at Tomah, there was a motion made and seconded to send \$20.00 (from the Relief fund) to the hospital for any project that will help make this VFW Day special for the hospitalized veterans at Tomah, WI. Tomah has a beautiful miniature golf course and it was renovated in 2007 with help from the Ladies Auxiliaries in Wisconsin. Thank you letters for our \$50.00 donations to the Fisher House and High Ground in Neillsville were read. These donations came from our Relief Fund and this is why help is needed during our Buddy Poppy Day drive.

On May 4, 2008, District 6 had their Spring Meeting at Waubeka, a quaint community on the Milwaukee River Northwest of Grafton. At the meeting we were presented with a \$5.00 check for being at 100% for our membership. I want to thank all of you for your renewals and encourage you to renew for the year 2008 – 2009 when that time comes around again. This monetary award will be deposited into our General Fund. New district Officers were nominated and sworn in by the Department President Joyce Hoffman. Ellain Puls will be the District Secretary and I was given the honor of being the new Junior Vice President. Joyce gave a brief speech about her "reign" as the Department President for the State of Wisconsin.

Our next meeting will be Monday May 19th at the American Legion Hall located at N120W15932 Freistadt Road, Germantown, WI. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to meet State Senator Alberta Darling, discuss Memorial Day activities, witness the installation of next year's officers, and enjoy a nice lunch afterwards. As requested, the ladies that are responsible for the next three months are as follows:

1. May – Jeanette Ewert
2. June – Mary Heimann
3. July – Betty & Carol

In Friendship
Mary Brown
President

