



EDWARD B. CUTTER

American Legion Post 102
400 West Main St., Anoka, MN 55303
Chartered August 25, 1919



Volume 32, Number 3

Official Publication of Edward B. Cutter Post 102, Anoka MN

March 2006

87th Anniversary of The American Legion (Paris Caucus March 15-17, 1919)

Department Vice Commander Ken Grams

Ken is an honored life member of Hopkins Post 320, eligible through his service in the US Air Force during Vietnam (1964-1968).

Ken has served as Post Commander for 5 terms, currently as membership director and executive committee member. Was 10th District Vice Commander, Adjutant and Commander for 1999-2000, currently as SAL Advisor and Continuity Committee member.

Ken is semi-retired after being employed for 32 years at Rockwell Automation as their Manufacturing Manager and Quality Assurance Engineer.

Ken was elected Vice Commander for the 8th & 10th Districts at the Department Convention in Moorhead this past July.

Department President Lori Skallerud

Lori Skallerud is a thirty-six year member of the American Legion Auxiliary and is a VIM member of Madison Unit 158. She is eligible for membership through her late father, a World War II Army veteran. She is also eligible for membership through her husband Robert "Buster" Skallerud, a Korean Conflict Army veteran and also through her brother, an Army veteran who served in Vietnam.

Active in the Unit and District levels, Lori served most offices, including Unit President three times, Seventh District President for the 1990-1991 Auxiliary year and all chairmanships.

Lori has served the Department as Second Vice President, First Vice President and several chairmanships including Americanism, National Security, Leadership, Public Relations, American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund and served as a trustee on the American Legion Family Hospital Association.

Lori works part-time for American Red Cross as a phlebotomist and health historian. This includes working "Blood Mobiles" in all of southwestern Minnesota, eastern South Dakota and parts of Iowa. Lori and Buster have a combined family of six grown children and twelve grandchildren.

It is an honor for Lori to serve as Department President this year under the theme "Let Freedom Ring".

SAL Detachment Commander Ron Wolff

Ron is a 17 year member of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), eligible through his father a WWII veteran who served in Germany. Recruited by his brother-in-law, Ron joined the Glenville Post but later transferred to Waseca. Ron has served as Glenville #264 Squadron Commander, 1st District Adjutant and Commander, State Legislative Chairman and Membership Director.

Ron and his wife Lynette live in Owatonna where Ron works at Viracon. They have 3 children and 1 grandson; all are members of the American Legion Family.

Ron's main objective in The American Legion is to help carry out the programs of the Legion Family and help to see that every veteran gets the help and benefits they deserve.

March 11, 2006
Social 6:00 -7:00 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm



Chicken Cordon Blue
Mashed Potatoes ~ Gravy
California Blend Vegetables
Tossed Salad and Roll
Coffee / Milk ~ Birthday Cake

Dinner by Catering Central
Ron Forsyth

Dinner open to all Legion, Auxiliary
and SAL Members & Guests.

Tickets Available at Pull-Tab Booth \$9.00
Cut-Off Date March 6

Welcome
Dept. Vice Commander Ken Grams
Dept. President Lori Skallerud
Det. SAL Commander Ron Wolff

ATTENTION: 2006 Unpaid Members

Your membership in Post & Unit
102 expired December 31, 2005.
As of January 1, 2006 you are
considered delinquent and
March 1, 2006 you will be
removed from the Post roster.

We need you to remain a
member of Post 102. Please
remit your dues for the year 2006
NOW!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Permit Paid
Anoka, MN 55303
Permit No. 81

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Gary Munkholm – Acting Adjutant

The Post general Membership meeting was held February 7, 2006. Minutes and reports from officers and chairman were read. Twenty five new members with twenty four of them National Guard members were voted as new members to our Post during the meeting. Everyone needs to pitch in and help work on getting our membership numbers up. If you are not sure someone is a member of a Legion Post just ask.

Cliff Newman announced that our Oratorical contestant took first place and will be at the state contest here at our Post on February 24th. He also informed us that our combination drill squad and color guard took first place at the St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade.

The following lawful purpose donations and expenses projected for the month of February 2006 were approved by the General Membership:

North Hennepin Legion Baseball fees	\$1249
Rise, Inc.	500
Dept. of MN Auxiliary	80
Anoka County Historical Soc.	3000
American Legion Hospital Association	500
American Legion National Emerg. Fund	600
Anoka Sport Shack Drill uniforms	600
Legion Baseball Kit	75
Franklin Elementary School	230
City of Anoka Utilities	1200
Centerpoint Energy Gas Costs	2050
U.S. Treasury Tax	600



Post 102 extends sincere sympathy to the family of



GEORGE MAIDL

George was a 17 year member of Post 102



Art Show and Reception

You are invited to attend an Art Show and Reception honoring the local veterans who are participating in the 2006 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition.

Thurs., March 9, 2006 – 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Building 8, VA Medical Center, St. Cloud, MN

Veterans, family, friends, volunteers, and staff of the medical center are welcome to attend and congratulate our talented artists.

Refreshments will be served.

Hope to see you there!

PLEASE BE ADVISED...

In the event of the passing of an Anoka 102 Post, Unit or SAL member, please have a family member contact the Post at 763-421-0883.

The American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL need the notification and Edward B. Cutter Post, Unit and SAL Squadron want to acknowledge the service and membership years of all members.

WILD GAME DINNER

This year (December 10, 2005) was our best year with around 55 veterans coming to our wild game feed. Veterans from the Mpls. VA and the St. Cloud VA Hospitals came in large full buses plus 3 from the Salvation Army Harbor Lights For Veterans were here.

We were blessed in having Clark Dyrud, the Veterans Administration for the State of Minnesota attend; also 10th District Commander John Nixon, Anoka County Veterans Service Officer Duane Krueger and wife and Asst. Service Officer Phil O'Donnell, Anoka County Commissioners Dan Erhart and wife and Steve Novak.

I want to thank all those who helped us get the venison, bear and pheasants; thanks to all them for their kind donations: Willie Redepenning, Rhonda, Dave & Greg, Virgil Collins, Dale Voltin, the Anoka Meat Locker and Tim Kelsey for the 30 pheasants (and were they good!).

Thanks to all the crews – in the kitchen, that set up, cleaned up, helped with bingo, and who really took care of the 55 plus veterans.

Special thanks to Terry Johnson and Jim Batters for heading up the kitchen, cooking and serving of food.

Thanks, Bud Redepenning for the prayer and thanks Commander Darrel Redepenning for opening and greeting everyone at the dinner.

Thanks to Frank Gale, Jerry Abeln and others who helped with the bingo – everyone all looked like they had fun and went back with some cash too.

Overall, everything went very well and a big thank you to our Post for having this event every year for 40 years to pay tribute to our veterans in homes, hospitals, etc.

Looking Back: In 1965, Charlie Sell and Warren Feist thought of doing a wild game deal for our paraplegic veterans. They went out to Federal Cartridge and a lot of work went into getting them to shoot ducks near a swamp. Well, in 1967 it was changed to more of a wild game meal like we have today.

Louie Erickson and Clarence (Whisky) Visneski with Charlie Sell kept it going for many years. In 2000, Charlie turned over the dinner to me and we still have it going on 40 years later!

Next year, on December 9th, will be our 41st of the Wild Game Dinner.

Thanks to everyone,
Al Springer, Chairman

Edward B. Cutter Post 102

Editor	Betty Erickson	Photographer	Sandy Phillips
Aux. Editor	Barb Fechner	Photographer	Al Amundson
		Production	Tom Knotz



2005

Published monthly by Edward B. Cutter
American Legion Post 102
400 West Main Street, Anoka, MN
Web site: www.anokalegion.org



**Commander's
Column
Darrel Redepenning**

Howdy Legionnaires,

We're on the downhill side of winter, are you getting a little spring fever? I am! At our February 7th General Membership meeting we had a couple guests stop by. 10th District Membership Director and Candidate for 10th District Commander Allan Kerry and also Anoka County Veterans Service Office Director Duane Krueger.

Allan gave us all a pep talk on getting our members re-signed and handed out membership applications to everyone present. We need your help! We're still lagging behind last year. I carry a pocket full of applications all the time and would love to fill them out.

Duane Krueger spoke to the membership on his favorite subject, Veterans benefits. Duane is a great advocate and resource for all Veteran matters and is often singled out as one of the best V.A. Service Officers in the state. At Post 102 we're very fortunate that he is conveniently located in downtown Anoka at the Government Center. Duane encouraged all of us that may suspect having service connected health problems, especially hearing loss, to come talk to him and get registered with the V.A. Medical Center.

Duane also distributed many informational handouts. One that he really emphasized was a booklet for veterans to fill out that provides pertinent information (that your family may not know) about your military service, your veteran status, where your DD214 is, if you have more than one, etc. Call it sort of a veteran's will. This information is most important for families dealing with a veteran's untimely death. It's simple to fill out and helps assure that your wishes are met. So give Duane a call, he's very big on all Veterans issues (actually, he's very big period).

The American Legion Birthday Dinner is scheduled for March 11th in the Commander's Hall. Tickets are on sale at the pull-tab booth. Catering Central is serving the meal and several Legion dignitaries are scheduled to attend so come join in the festivities.

Until next time, thanks for all your support and I hope to see you at the Post.

Commander Darrel Redepenning



1/28/06 - 10:00 AM - Post 102

1st stop for Paul Peterson, Pat Coleman and Jason Voss
Membership Team 2006 Snowmobile Rally



S.A.L. NEWS
by Commander Jin Batters

Greetings Legion Family,

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Meet the Membership Party. Hope you got enough to eat and maybe even won a door prize.

The new membership board has been completed along with all of the awards that

are hung on the wall around it. Next time in the Post take a look.

New members approved at the February meeting are: Nicholas Allen, Anthony Bezenar, Timothy Jones, Eric Knutson, Cory Kocon, Elmer McCoy and Ricky Phillips. Hope to see you at the next meeting which is held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Commanders Hall.

HOW THE LEGION GOT ITS NAME

In naming The American Legion, the founders did not merely stumble across that name, nor was it the offspring of a brainstorm session behind closed doors. In fact, acceptance of the name was far from immediate and less than unanimous when the organization tasked a group to provide a list of recommendations.

Shortly after the gavel fell to open the proceedings at the Paris Caucus on March 15, 1919, a 15-man committee was assigned to collect and submit names for the organization. Informally, many members had already been referring to it as the Legion, and to one another as Legionnaires.

Edward B. Cutter Post 102 applied for and received its charter August 25, 1919.

Lloyd G. McCann was drafted into the army in 1918 and served until June 1919; later that year he was invited by some young Anoka veterans at the Anoka County Fair to join their group. A meeting was held at the Anoka armory and Lloyd McCann at age 29 became the first commander of Anoka Post 102. He was a continuous member of The American Legion since that time until his death November 9, 1982 at the age of 92. Lloyd was able to attend the Birthday Dinners in 1978 and 1979.

To read more about "HOW THE LEGION GOT ITS NAME" go to www.anokalegion.org

**George Washington Bentley
February 19, 1898 - June 4, 1999**

Born in Montgomery MN, George Bentley served in France in the Great War. As he waited his turn to go home after the armistice on Nov. 22, 1918 he saw an ad in the "Stars & Stripes" for a meeting in Paris to discuss forming a veterans organization.

The Paris Caucus, March 15-17, 1919 was that meeting and George Bentley and about 2500 men were there and in St. Louis the following May.

By the time of the St. Louis Caucus, several Posts had been formed throughout the nation, with new ones gaining temporary charters each day.

On Sept. 16, 1919 Congress granted The American Legion a federal charter, the first veterans group ever to become incorporated and formally recognized by the U.S. Government.

George Washington Bentley was the very last survivor of the Paris and St. Louis meetings.

Editors Note: Many Post & Unit members had the privilege of meeting and talking with Mr. Bentley, myself included.

JAN'S JOTTINGS

by Jan Reiter, Unit 102 Secretary

The regular meeting of Edward B. Cutter American Legion Auxiliary was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 7:00 pm with 15 members attending including 8 officers.

President Donna Redepening called the meeting to order. The prayer, pledge, preamble and a song, opened the meeting.

Fund Raising: Casino Trip to Hinckley, February 21, 2006 and to Jackpot Junction (overnighter) March 10-11 (changed from March 3 & 4).

Girls State: Will be having the annual assembly at Anoka High Schools for the junior girls that are interested in going to Girls State. Scheduling County Days.

Home Service: The Auxiliary will be collecting commemorative, foreign and air mail stamps, picture postcards and S&H stamps.

Junior Activities: The juniors Christmas party was January 14 at the Maple Grove Community Center. They swam, used the play area and ate lunch. There were 10 juniors plus some parents. At the January 21st meeting they made Valentines for the servicemen over in Iraq. Next meeting will be February 18th. They had the 10th District Junior overnighiter on February 3 nd 4. Sue Nunnelee thanked everyone for their help and treats. She thanked Sandy Phillips for the use of Karaoke machine and for taking picture of the 10 juniors present and then Sandy gave the pictures to them to take home. Thanked Donna for all her help. February 10th will be the annual bowling tournament at Blainbrook at 12:30. March 18 in Howard Lake is the 10 District Jr. Conference and the Department Jr. Conference is April 8 in Mankato.

Past President's Parley: There will be a sewing get-together Monday, February 27 at 6:30 in the upper hall. Anyone is welcome to help. You do not need to know how to sew. Bring scissors, sewing machines and yourself to help out.

Poppies: Poppies have been received. April 21st is the beginning of Poppy Card Days. May 19 is Poppy Day.

VA&R: Cathy Newman will be taking Valentines to the Veterans at Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center. She will be doing bingo for the veterans at AMRTC on the 13th of February.

New Business: Motion made to have the white elephant auction at the March meeting and to have a part of the proceeds go to the VA Social Activity program and part going into other Auxiliary programs of the unit. A motion was made to have a VA shower at the March and April meeting. A motion was made to help out with the Bass Tournament as a fund raiser on July 7th. March 11th will be the Birthday Dinner and set up will be at 10:00 am.

Next Meeting: March 7th at 7:00 pm – the Annual Auction will follow the meeting – don't miss it!

NEW DATES - JACKPOT JUNCTION



Unit 102 Auxiliary Fund Raiser



Casino Bus Trip to Jackpot Junction

Fun

March 10th & 11th

Bus Leaves

Anoka Legion at 6:30 p.m. 3/10/06

Leaves Casino at 3:00 p.m 3/11/06

Games



Beverages & Snacks
on bus

Cost	
\$35.00	Double Occupancy
\$45.00	Single Occupancy
(Includes bus ride and 1 night lodging)	
\$10.00	Cash Back
\$5.00	Food Coupon



Bingo

**Reservations with Fee must be made by March 3, 2006.
Call Carol Hathaway 427-0185 or leave at Post 102 Pull Tab Booth.**

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to so many members who have paid their 2006 dues, **but 9 more members are still needed for our GOAL of 364 !!**

Please remember, you ARE an active member when you pay your dues because your dues support Auxiliary programs nationally, in Minnesota and locally in Anoka!

For veterans: in Mpls. & St. Cloud VA Hospitals, Rest Camps, nursing homes, MN Stand Down, job training & transportation, USO, AMRTC Gift Shop & bingo, Creative Arts Festivals, Ft. Snelling Rifle Squad, Armed Forces Center (the only one of its kind in the US at Mpls/St.Paul Intl.Airport), Fisher House Mpls. (for families and veterans to live while outpatient at VA Hosp.) etc.

For children & youth programs: 2 scholarships (girls at Anoka High), Legionville(School Patrol camp-also the only one in the US), 2 girls to Girls State, Girls County, American Education Week, Calendar Club (Fred Moore).

For our community: ACBC, Meals on Wheels, Anoka Co. Historical Society, etc.

We also support the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund for members caught in disasters (Katrina etc.), Minnesota emergencies and our own Unit members.

Your dues support so much to so many...we need your support!

Please make your \$20 dues payable to the American Legion Auxiliary and mail to me: Betty Erickson, 1826 Cressy Ave., Anoka MN 55303. Again, if there is any problem in paying- please call me at 763-421-4562.

Betty Erickson, Chairman



President's Column

Donna Redepenning

Commander Darrel and I hosted the 35th Annual Snowmobile Membership Pick-up. We had sixteen members from the District visit us. The group then moved on to another Legion. We went to Champlin and Osseo. The next day we went to Lino Lakes for the Rally.



The District Junior Lock-In was held recently. There were twenty girls from age 3 to 17 attending. They worked on their poppy contest entries and other crafts. We had an Advisory Board meeting with Junior 10th District President Heather Smith presiding. We had ten senior Auxiliary stop by with five that stayed overnight. Sandy Phillips, our District President, also attended, took pictures and provided Karaoke. The parties theme was

“Every Junior is a Princess” with decorations, tiaras and wands. We also had a lunch with snacks, games and prizes. Many thanks to Sue Nunnelee for all of her work on this event. Also thanks to Lynette Pavin for helping out. The District Junior Conference is March 18th in Howard Lake.

We have not reached our goal yet for memberships. Please renew or sign up a new member if you can. The Birthday Dinner is coming up on March 11th. You can buy your tickets at the pull-tab booth. We are collecting used inkjet cartridges and old cell phones for the Department Juniors project; you can bring them to the Birthday Dinner. They are going to the Soldiers for Soldiers Program of the American Legion.

Thanks to Mary Cameron, Norah Wyman and Jan Reiter for our treats at our February meeting. For our March meeting Dawn and Jean Johnson will provide the desserts.



Taken at the Champlimg American Legion Post



Taken at the Osseo American Legion Post

VETERANS SHOWER

It is time again for our annual Veterans Shower for the Minneapolis VA Hospital. Some of the items they need this year are: crew socks, chap stick, trial size shampoo, deodorant, word puzzles and lap robes (38”x45”).

Please note – they have an over abundance of the following: razors, tooth paste & brushes; and they cannot accept mouthwash.

If you care to help out, bring your donation to our March 7 and April 4 Unit meetings OR leave these items at the Post and I will pick them up and take to the Hospital.

Now, with so many troops coming to the Hospital, we need all your help.

Thank you!

Cathy Newman, VA&R Chairman

36TH ANNUAL AUCTION

This is the night to attend – March 7th – because our famous auction follows the meeting!

All Auxiliary, Post & SAL members are invited to attend and/or bring items for the auction. All items should be wrapped EXCEPT home made food items, hand made items or any item you decide would gather more bids if seen. Please remember to bring items that you would like to receive!!

Proceeds will go to the St. Cloud VA Hospital Activity Fund and to the Unit General Fund to be used for all programs.

Please join us for the meeting at 7:00 pm.; auction immediately follows.

March 2006

Paris Caucus of The American Legion March 15-17, 1919

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>TBA Boys & Girls County Day</p> <p>4 Aux. Meeting / Vets Shower</p> <p>8 Jr. Aux. Dept. Conf / Mankato - 2nd Dist</p> <p>16 Easter Sunday</p> <p>22 8th & 10th Dist. Rally - Milaca</p> <p>23 Dist. Pres. Sandy's Testimonial / Anoka</p> <p>30 Dist. Cmdr. John Nixon Testimonial / Clearwater</p>	<p>Coming in April</p>	<p>Post General Mem. 7:30 pm S.A.L. Meeting 7:00 pm Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm Vets Shower Annual Auction</p>	<p>SAL Sponsored Dinner 5:30-7:00 Steak or Chicken \$6.50 Pork Chop \$7.50 Bingo 7 pm</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>Every Thursday: Ron's BBQ Ribs 5:00 - 8:00 pm Full Rack \$10.00 1/2 \$8.00</p>	<p>Meat Raffle 5:00 pm Bar Bingo 6:30 pm Legion Grill 5:00 - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Music 8:30-12 Mirror Image</p>	<p>Leadership Class 9:00 am Coon Rapids Karaoke</p>
<p>Club Open 12-10</p> <p>Bar Bingo 3:00 pm</p> <p>Bingo 7 pm</p>	<p>March is Community Service Month</p>	<p>NEWSPAPER MEETING 7:00 PM WEB 8:00 PM</p>	<p>SAL Sponsored Dinner 5:30-7:00 Steak or Chicken \$6.50 Pork Chop \$7.50 Bingo 7 pm</p>	<p><i>In the early 1900's paint was sold in drug stores because pharmacists had a sound knowledge of chemicals; paint dealers carried different chemicals in barrels to mix a color on the spot.</i></p>	<p>Meat Raffle 5:00 pm Bar Bingo 6:30 pm Legion Grill 5:00 - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Music 8:30-12 Time Trav St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>Dist. Junior Conference Howard Lake Karaoke</p>
<p>Club Open 12-10</p> <p>Bar Bingo 3:00 pm</p> <p>Bingo 7 pm</p>	<p>First Day of Spring</p>	<p>Aux. Casino Bus Hinckley House & Ent. Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>SAL Sponsored Dinner 5:30-7:00 Steak or Chicken \$6.50 Pork Chop \$7.50 Bingo 7 pm</p>	<p><i>Write Drug owners had a unique way of mixing paints. They hooked up their St. Bernard to a gerbil type power wheel; when all resistance from the paint being mixed was gone, the dog knew it was time to stop.</i></p>	<p>Bar Bingo 6:30 pm Legion Grill 5:00 - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Music 8:30-12 Turn Around</p>	<p>Anoka at State Bowling Tourney Bloomington Karaoke</p>
<p>Anoka at State Bowling Tourney Bloomington Club Open 12-10</p> <p>Bar Bingo 3:00 pm</p> <p>Bingo 7 pm</p>		<p>Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>SAL Sponsored Dinner 5:30-7:00 Steak or Chicken \$6.50 Pork Chop \$7.50 Bingo 7 pm</p>	<p>March 28, 1932: Miss Vivian Bell crowned Queen of the Legion Ball</p>	<p>Bar Bingo 6:30 pm Legion Grill 5:00 - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Music 8:30-12 Top 43</p>	<p>Unit Reports Meeting Thursday March 23</p>