



EDWARD B. CUTTER

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



Volume 32, Number 1

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

January 2006

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Past Presidents Parley
BAKE SALE
at
New Years Day
Brunch
January 1, 2006
Proceeds to Parley Projects!

Post 102
New Years Eve Party
Dinner Served from
6:00 - 8:30 pm

ONLY \$17⁵⁰ PER PERSON

Includes:

Steak & Shrimp Dinner
Free Champaegn
Free Hats & Noise Makers

SHOW AT 9:00 PM

ELVIS
DINNER SHOW

Band After Show



Tickets available at the Bar

JOIN US NEW YEAR'S DAY FOR A FREE BRUNCH

All paid Post, Unit and SAL members and
a guest are invited to Post 102's

Annual

New Years Day Brunch

Club Open 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Brunch served 11:00 to 1:00 pm

Club Open to the Public at 2:00 pm



55 Alive Classes

The Anoka Lions are sponsoring two 4 hour classes which are refresher courses only on March 20 & 21 at the Anoka Legion Clubrooms from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Cost is \$10 made payable to AARP. Space is limited.

To register call:

Joe Zimmerman 763-421-4361

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

LARRY C. PHILLIPS

First of all I would like to begin by thanking everyone for the cards and prayers while I was hospitalized for 8 days with pneumonia. I would also like to thank Gary Munkholm for taking notes at the Executive Committee meeting and also the General Membership meeting. It is nice to know that we have some very talented Legionnaires at our Post.

The Post General Membership meeting held December 7, 2005 heard the minutes from the previous meeting and reports from Post officers and Committee Chairman. The following Lawful Purpose donations and expenses projected for the month of December, 2005 were approved by the Post General Membership:

1. School Patrol Party \$ 500
2. Wild Game Dinner 500
3. American Legion Family Hosp. Assoc.
(Dept. Commander Project.) 250
4. Boy Scout Troop 631 300
5. Apperts 60
6. Ft. Snelling Rifle Squad 300
7. Granny's Christmas Closet 250
8. Anoka Anti-Crime Commission 250
9. City of Anoka (Water/Light costs.) 1,200
10. Center Point Energy (Gas costs) 1,200
11. Country Flags (POW Flags for the Post.) 74
12. Dept of MN Auxiliary (School Patrol Equipment.) . . . 210
13. Assist Needy Veterans and families 1,500
14. U.S. Treasury—(Tax on Wagering.) 600
15. Emergency Money 500

Commander Redepenning gave the membership update and a new member, James M. Kohler was accepted and approved by the General Membership. Welcome to our Post, James. Our membership total is now at 718, which means we need almost 200 more to reach our goal.

Happy Holidays from our house to yours!



Post 102 extends sincere sympathy to the family of


JACK HILTZ

Jack was a 58 year member of Post 102 and a World War II Veteran



Edward B. Cutter Post 102

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



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2005

Newspaper Restored

It is my pleasure to announce to you that our award-winning newspaper has been restored back to a monthly publication.

During the spring of 2005 we were faced with some declining funds and it was decided to cut the newspaper to a bi-monthly publication to save money. In the September/October issue I wrote a column as to what had happened and why. At that time, I also asked for your feedback and boy did I receive it. It became very apparent to me just how much this paper means to everyone. Many of you told me it was your lifeline to the Post. I decided then, if and when finances improved, our top priority should be to the restoration of the newspaper.

I'm happy to inform you that finances are steadily improving, Post 102 is doing very well, our 2006 budget is set and the vote to restore the newspaper was unanimous.

Commander Darrel Redepenning

AN EVENING TOGETHER

For the first time in several decades (or even longer), the past commanders and presidents of Edward B. Cutter Post & Unit 102 gathered together on Monday, December 12 at the Post for a relaxing evening of dinner and conversation.

Surprised a little by the arranged seating, everyone was soon chatting to each other at their table – they liked it! There were 37 who attended, 15 commanders and 22 presidents; of those (in their first term) – 4 served during the 50's, 5 in the 60's, 10 from the 70's, 9 during the 80's, 8 from the 90's and only 1 from the 00's.

It was such a wonderful turnout, good traveling weather, a delicious dinner by Ron and wonderful cake by Chris. Thanks to Frank for help setting up and special thanks to Al Springer, Past Commanders Club Chairman, for getting the guys together.

There are 29 past commanders and 34 past presidents (who are still current members of Post & Unit 102); 9 are already South and several were unable to attend, some at the last minute due to illness – we missed them!

Everyone had a very nice evening, many said it was about time this happened. It was suggested to get together again possibly earlier so weather and going south wouldn't be a factor – and possibly a summer barbeque.

Thank you all for being there,

Betty & Joyce, Co-chairmen
Past Presidents Parley



**Commander's
Column
Darrel Redepenning**

Howdy Legionnaires,

Happy New Year! I hope all your wishes and resolutions for 2006 come true. Hopefully one of those is to be more involved with the Legion. We are fortunate at Post 102 to have many hard working volunteers keeping our great programs going. However, we always like seeing new faces. Just because it appears there are enough people to get everything done doesn't mean we don't need your help. The more helpers we have, the easier the chores. It's not all work though; we try to have a little fun as well. If you see something on the calendar you would like to take part in, let us know or just show up.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to Post 102 in 2005. You are the reason why this Post is one of the most successful Posts in the state. Thank you for caring, thank you for your patriotism and thank you for your willingness to step up. Rest assured that your efforts do make a difference.

Commander Darrel Redepenning

Free Membership

In our ongoing effort to increase membership and attract younger veterans, Post 102 is proud to offer our deployed and returning-home veterans of the war on terrorism a one-year free membership in the American Legion.

Unanimously approved by the Executive Committee and general membership, it is our hope to show our unwavering support of our local war heroes. If you have family or friends who are currently in the National Guard, Reserves or Active Duty and are currently deployed, soon to be deployed or just returned home from the war, this applies to them. Please contact any active member or officer of Post 102 and it will be our pleasure to sign them up!

Please keep in mind, this offer is made by Post 102 for membership at Post 102 and is not necessarily Legion wide. Every Post handles membership and fees differently.

Commander Darrel Redepenning



S.A.L. NEWS
by Commander Jin Batters

Happy Holidays to everyone in the Legion Family
At our December meeting, Rick Lemke and myself were awarded Life Memberships of Squadron 102. We would like to say thank you very much for this honor.
On December 10th, the SAL cooking team had the pleasure once again to cook the Veterans Wild Game Dinner. I would like to thank everyone who helped with this annual event.

Donations for December included: Toys for Joy, Anoka-Champlin Firemans Fund, Granny's Closet and Meals on Wheels.

The SAL "Meet the Membership Party" is coming in February – the date is yet to be determined. Look for it in the next issue of the Post Paper or check the bulletin board at the Post.

50 Year American Legion Members



*Merv Hoffer, Dick Schanhaar
Milt Setzler and Commander Redepenning
(not pictured Bert Carlson)*

Veterans Day Dinner



*Unit Auxiliary President Donna Redepenning
10th District President Sandy Phillips
10th District SAL Commander Wayne Mattingly
10th District Jr. Auxiliary President Heather Smith
Post Commander Darrel Redepenning
(not pictured: Filling in for 10th Dist. Commander John Nixon
10 Dist. Vice Commander Rick Oelschlager)*

Boy Scout Of The Year Award



Collin Blahut with Commander Darrel

In reviewing our Post records concerning acknowledging the Outstanding Boy Scout of the Year from Anoka, it was found that this event began in November 1974 during the Veterans Day Dinner and Program. So this marks the 32nd anniversary of honoring the Outstanding Boy Scout. John Weaver did all the leg work in procuring the Outstanding Boy Scout of the Year for (31) years but unfortunately, John passed away in December 2004. This program was going to continue and our own Post sponsored Boy Scout Troop Scoutmaster Tery Blahut got the search going. But when she was informed her son was one of the (5) finalists for the Boy Scout of the Year Award, she promptly removed herself from the final selection process. Her son Collin was selected from a panel of (5) people as the Outstanding Boy Scout from Anoka and from our Boy Scout Troop 631 and the process was legit...(scouts honor).

Collin started his scouting career as a Tiger Cub in 1st grade with Cub Scout Pack 602 out of Wilson Elementary School. He completed the Cub Scout ranks of Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos I and II and finishing his Cub Scout days with his "Arrow of Light" award with seven silver and two gold arrow points (each arrow representing an activity beyond what is required for a rank) along with two compass points (each compass point symbolizes four activity badges). He went on to Boy Scouts, joining Troop 631 at this American Legion Post and moving up the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life to the rank of Eagle Scout. He was voted in the Order of the Arrow which is an organization of scouts that have demonstrated good scout characteristics. As scouts move toward their Eagle rank, the last ranks of Star and Life require them to earn a certain number of merit badges, accept a position of responsibility in their troop and be part of community service projects. Collin earned (24) merit badges and took leadership roles as Scribe, Quartermaster, Assistant Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader. He was chosen to attend Pine Tree Camp which is a junior leadership program. Outside of scouting, he has coached juniors in precision rifle shooting and football. Throughout his boy scout years, he has

helped in numerous community service events cleaning Anoka's Main Street in the Adopt-A-Highway program, serving breakfast to seniors at Walker Plaza, helping seniors play bingo at Twin Rivers Nursing Home, collecting food for the local foodshelf ACBC, helping with the fishing tournament during Anoka's Riverfest and at his church, serving as an Acolyte, a Sunday School Teacher's Aide, delivering meals on wheels, serving meals at the family table and loading Christmas child gift boxes to be shipped overseas. His community involvement includes setting up and cleaning up for elementary school carnivals, dinners and craft shows, mowing cemeteries and cleaning up trees after storm damage.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, the scout must complete a community service project. Collin's project was designing a wheelchair accessible picnic table made out of cedar wood for a group home that houses and aides disabled people. The time it took designing, getting donations and with volunteers helping him totaled (98) hours to complete the project. Collin has also achieved academic and sports awards. He is an "A" Honor Roll Student and has lettered in track, wrestling and football. He has been involved in precision rifle shooting since he was ten years old and has won regional, state and national competition in air rifle, small bore rifle and high power rifle. He was invited to try out for the World Cup Team and was ranked 13th nationally in air rifle and 14th in small bore rifle.

Collin was presented The American Legion Medal of Merit with certificate and a cash award.

Eagle Scouts of Troop 631

This last year has been a busy one for Boy Scout Troop 631, which is sponsored by the American Legion Post 102. In the last 12 months the troop has produced 4 new Eagle Scouts! Corey Poland, son of John and Nancy Poland of Anoka became an Eagle Scout on November 11, 2004. For his eagle scout project Corey did a food drive, donating 1500 lbs of food, \$195 cash and 34 personal care bags to the ACBC food shelf. Corey is a Junior at Anoka High School.

Collin Blahut, son of Bruce and Tery Blahut of Anoka became an Eagle Scout on July 28, 2005.

Cody Beckes, son of Rick and JoAnne Beckes of Anoka became an Eagle Scout on October 4, 2005. Cody built a 105 ft. retaining wall in Bunker Hills Park for Anoka County. It will help with an erosion problem along the bike path. Sand washing onto the bike path had become hazardous to users. It took two weekends and over 120 an hours to build. Cody is a senior at Anoka High School and plays Varsity Hockey and Lacrosse.

Adam Seestrom, son of Bill and Melissa Seestrom of Ramsey, became an Eagle scout on November 8, 2005. Adam worked in conjunction with the Ramsey Youth Athletic Association and the Anoka High School Football players to conduct a beginning football clinic. It was run as a Quick start program for first time football players, going over basic moves to teach players proper technique and help them be effective and cut down on injuries. Over 100 youth participated as well as 20 coaches from the association. Adam is a senior at Anoka High School and plays Varsity Football, and Track and Field.



President's Column
Donna Redepenning

The Department Fall Conference was at Breezy Point. Those attending were Cathy Newman, Kathy Zwerdling, Sue Nunnelee, Sandy Phillips and myself. Seated with the group from Anoka (pictured) included an upcoming candidate for National Commander. There were a total of 307 Auxiliary members attending from throughout the state. We won for best Auxiliary website, thanks to Al Amundson. Anoka also won the Peoples' Choice Award for a poppy basket. There were 34 entries; I received a certificate and \$20. There was a silent auction; they raised \$3,166 for the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund.



We hosted the November District rally. Cathy Newman made a super lunch of BBQ riblet sandwiches, potato salad and baked beans. The Juniors sold ice cream sundaes and other treats for Heather's projects. They raised \$95 for the Crisis Nursery and Veterans on the Lake.

The Halloween parade had a terrific turnout because of the great weather. Thousands of people lined the streets.

Thank You!

I want to take a moment to thank the folks back at the American Legion for their thoughts, prayers and of course, goodies they sent to me and my men, all of those gifts were well received and appreciated. We are down to our last few weeks here. We need to get home as we are grating on each others nerves more and more every day. (smile). All in all, the tour has gone well. We had no fatalities and few injuries, so we were blessed. In the early days of our stay, we were hit by direct and indirect fire nearly everyday. After we went in and cleaned out Faluja last November, things quieted down quite a bit. However, the convoys continue to take fire and that's when the casualties generally come. Again, my guys were spared any of that. I want to thank you again for your generosity and GO VIKES!!

Best Regards,

*SFC Timothy Meyer
 341st MI BN FWD 6 – Camp Slayer, Iraq*

Commander Darrel, District Commander John Nixon, District President Sandy Phillips, District Junior President Heather Smith and I rode on the Legion float. It was very touching when people clapped and showed their "thank you veterans" signs as we rode by.



At the annual Veterans Day Dinner we had about 168 people attend. Our District President Sandy Phillips, District Junior President Heather Smith, Unit Junior President Sami Hicks and Past District President Netha Feist were among the distinguished guests. Thanks to Ron's Catering for the delicious turkey and beef dinner.

Apple day and the Gift Shop were both a success. Look for Kathy Zwerdling's articles in the newsletter. There is an oval platter that was left in the office. Give me a call to claim it (763-571-8623). And, Lynette needs volunteers for Twin Rivers Nursing Home Bingo – 2nd Wednesday, 2:30 pm each month. Call her at 421-1840.

Thanks to everyone who helped out with all of these events. The list is long, thankfully, so I'm not going to list all of the volunteers, but we know who you are! Thanks to Dody Schanhaar and Cathy Newman for our December holiday treats at our meeting. In January it will be Lenora Root and Lynette Pavin's turn. Remember our meeting is the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Hope to see you there.

Happy New Year!

EARLY BIRD DINNER



50 Year Member
Debra Feist Nelson



40 Year Members
Pres. Donna, Lisa Hostetler O'Donnell,
Nancy Bever, Katie Clark, Virginia
Kloos and Barb Ridge



35 Year Member
Carol Schafer



25 Year Member
Beth Alaspa



20 Year Members
Harriet Ridge with the Bever Girls:
Kelli Toikka
Julie Bever
Vicki Odegard



Those Initiated Included:
Barb Rogne
Kallee Ward
Misty O'Connor
Sue Adamek
Reva Oelschlager
Diane Wolford

Bowling In Bloomington

MN State Legion Bowling Tournament

Dates for the Anoka teams will be: March 25th, 2006 at 12:00 noon – Team event. March 26th at 9:00 am for singles and doubles. The tournament will be held at Southtown Lanes, 7941 Southtown Center, Bloomington, MN.

The tournament is open to all members of MN American Legion Posts, SAL members 18 years of age and Am. Legion Auxiliary members. All participants bowling must carry a current paid up membership card. Anyone interested in bowling in this tourney call me. We could use a lot more bowlers!

Joe Zimmerman - 763-421-4361

Unit Membership

Please, if you have not yet paid your 2006 Unit dues (\$20.00), DO SO NOW!

If at all possible, send by the end of the year and you may attend the free New Years Day Brunch at the Post – you may also pay that day.

Currently, 327 members have paid; we need to reach our GOAL of 364 by January 7, 2006 (District Mid-Winter Conference)!

You do not need the renewal slip from National, mail to me:

Betty Erickson
1826 Cressy Ave., Anoka, MN 55303

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Year's is a time for change and to begin things anew.

As members of Unit 102 we ask what more can we do to help our Vets and our troops?

How can we say "Thank You?"

As we party with our families and friends we forget not what they do!

For those who served and died, our gratitude we'll forever give.

The sacrifices our troops make now keep freedom for us to live.

If I could have a New Year's wish I'd wish there could be, Freedom and peace for all the world throughout eternity.

To those who are serving now you give the greatest gift you can.

We will always be grateful to you for keeping freedom for all Americans!

by – Jean Johnson
Auxiliary Member

JAN'S JOTTINGS

by Jan Reiter, Unit 102 Secretary

Field Service: Lynette Pavin reported on bingo at Twin River Care Center the 2nd Wednesday each month at 2:30. She is in need of help for this program or it will have to be dropped. TRCC is willing to have us come on one evening a month. If there are any volunteers to do this please give your name at the pull tab booth. Lynette reported she gave 11 veterans \$2 and a cup to each veteran at the nursing homes for Veteran's Day.


Junior Activities: The Junior Halloween Fund Raiser made a profit of \$532.12. There were 9 juniors and several Auxiliary members. Sue Nunnelee thanked everyone that helped and donated food. The juniors made centerpieces for the Early Bird Dinner and they donated them as prizes at the Early Bird Dinner. They also helped at the Silent Auction that evening. At the Veterans Day Dinner the juniors gave their donations of \$50 each to the 10th Dist. Pres. and Junior Pres. for their projects. At the November 19th meeting the juniors made Christmas cards and candy cane reindeer for the Christmas Gift Shop at the AMRTC. Next meeting is Saturday, January 17, 2006.

VA&R: Cathy Newman reported she did bingo at AMRTC with 21 residents attending. The VA is in need of lap robes 38"x45", cool scarves, toasty toe slippers and bibs. If you are in need of patterns please contact Cathy. Also they would like you to send cards and letters to our veterans. On Veterans day she took over cards and bags of candy to the Veterans at AMRTC.

Donations:

Mpls. VA Medical Center	\$100	St. Cloud VA Medical Center	\$100
MN Vet Homes	\$100	Five Dollar Bill Shower	\$100
Am. Leg Fund for Hosp. Vet	\$75	10th Dist Activity Fund	\$100
Veterans Job Train Prog.	\$75	Vet Volunteer Trans Prog.	\$100
Christmas Gift Shop	\$175	Vet Rest Camps	\$100
Am. Leg. Aux. Hosp. Prog.	\$75	Nat. Creative Arts Fest.	\$100
Minnesota Stand Down	\$100	Nat. Am. Leg. Child Welfare	\$100
Armed Forces Center	\$150	Nat. Am. Leg. Aux. Emer. Fund	\$100
Dept. Am. Leg. Aux. Emer Fund ...	\$100	Dept. Scholarship Fund	\$100
Forgotten Children	\$100		

The Early Bird Dinner was Monday, October 17. The funds from the silent auction at the Early Bird Dinner were \$575. There were 110 people in attendance. We had initiation and gave out year pins.



ANOKA COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

DUANE R. KRUEGER
DIRECTOR

PHIL O'DONNELL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

763-323-5290

GOVERNMENT CENTER
Room 233
2100 3rd Avenue
Anoka, MN 55303-2265

AMRTC Gift Shop



On December 5th the Veteran's at Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center were invited to a special Christmas Gift Shop. Thirteen veterans participated and were able to select gifts for their immediate family or for themselves. The gifts were selected, wrapped and mailed if necessary. The veterans are so overwhelmed that someone would do this for them. It makes for a very worthwhile event. Auxiliary members from Anoka, Champlin and Coon Rapids helped out to make it a very festive evening. Coon Rapids always brings delicious treats. Although everyone enjoyed the Anoka Choralliers singing, we did miss Santa not being able to attend. A special Thank You to Jean Forberg for filling in and directing the group and Barb Lecuyer for playing the keyboard.

Kathy Zwerdling
Dept. AMRTC Hospital Rep.


Apples Delivered to Schools



On Monday, November 14th, 23 Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members bagged 1077 apples for our Anoka teachers and staff. It's always a fun evening with a great group of helpers. The apples were then delivered on Tuesday, November 15th, to 9 schools and 4 Special Learning Centers. A very special "Thank You" to all that helped with this very worth while project.

Kathy Zwerdling
(Mary Cameron's helper)

January 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH 11 AM - 1 PM Past Pres. Bake Sale Club Open 10 am - 7 pm 1		Post General Mem. 7:30 pm S.A.L. Meeting 7:00 pm Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm 3	SAL Sponsored Dinner 5:30-7:00 Steak or Chicken \$6.50 Pork Chop \$7.50 Bingo 7 pm 4	Every Thursday: Ron's BBQ Ribs 5:00 - 8:00 pm Full Rack \$10.00 1/2 \$8.00 5	Meat Raffle 5:00 pm Bar Bingo 6:30 pm Legion Grill 5:00 - 8:30 pm Music 8:30-12 Turn Around 6	10th District Mid-Winter Conference Hopkins Karaoke 7
Monte Carlo St. Cloud VA Club Open 12-10 Bar Bingo 3:00 pm Bingo 7 pm 8			SAL Sponsored Dinner 5:30-7:00 Steak or Chicken \$6.50 Pork Chop \$7.50 Aux. Twin Rivers Bingo 2:30 pm Bingo 7 pm 11	Jan. 11, 1923: Henry J. Wuest Post of the VFW organized in Anoka. 12	Meat Raffle 5:00 pm Bar Bingo 6:30 pm Legion Grill 5:00 - 8:30 pm Music 8:30-12 David Carroll 13	Jr. Aux. Christmas Party Karaoke 14
Club Open 12-10 Bar Bingo 3:00 pm Bingo 7 pm 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 16	NEWSPAPER MEETING 7:00 PM WEB 8:00 PM Aux. Casino Bus Hinckley 17	SAL Sponsored Dinner 5:30-7:00 Steak or Chicken \$6.50 Pork Chop \$7.50 Bingo 7 pm 18	Jan. 9, 1917: 1st shell made at Federal/ Cartridge; in Sept. 1920, a soundproof building built so test shootings held each hour would not be heard. 19	Meat Raffle 5:00 pm Bar Bingo 6:30 pm Legion Grill 5:00 - 8:30 pm Music 8:30-12 Brandy Creek 20	Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 12 Noon Karaoke 21
Club Open 12-10 Bar Bingo 3:00 pm Bingo 7 pm 22		House & Ent. Meeting 7:00 pm 24	SAL Sponsored Dinner 5:30-7:00 Steak or Chicken \$6.50 Pork Chop \$7.50 Bingo 7 pm 25	1924: 6 ft. maple toboggan \$7.25 at Babcock Hardware. 26	Bar Bingo 6:30 pm Legion Grill 5:00 - 8:30 pm Music 8:30-12 Mirrow Image 27	Karaoke 28
Employee Christmas Party Social 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Bar Closes at 5 pm No Evening Bingo 29		Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm 31	SAL Sponsored Dinner 5:30-7:00 Steak or Chicken \$6.50 Pork Chop \$7.50 Bingo 7 pm 31	Coming in February TBA - Annual Post (Dad)/Junior Bowling 3rd - District Jr. Aux. Spring Lock-in at Anoka TBA - SAL "Meet the Membership" Party  Flag Display Days: January 1 - New Years Day January 17 - Martin Luther King Day		