



For God and
Country

The Bird Call

American Legion—Chester Bird Post 523 Newsletter
200 Lilac drive, Golden Valley MN, 55422 (763-377-4252)
December 2011 & January 2012



Hello again , I hope everyone is doing well. Things are a little busy here at the Post.

The Commander's Corner By George Jansen

Our long time friend and Operations Manager Sharon Braaten is retiring after 23 years service to this Post, on December 31st 2011. I want to thank her and look forward to continue seeing her at the Post. We will have her **RETIREMENT PARTY** on January 21st following Bingo. So come on down and help us celebrate with Sharon. I also want to wish a hearty welcome to our new General Manager, Bert Couch. Please be sure to make him feel part of the Chester Bird family the next time you see him. Bert began on November 28th and will be trained in by Sharon and our Second Vice Commander, Joe Yenkosky. Bert will assume full duties as GM by December 18th.

The Early Bird Dinner was well attended. We served 237. I want to thank everyone who helped. The Sea Cadets did a great job again as our food servers and with your generous tips and the money we took in from paying guests they raised \$760.00 towards new uniforms. Our Veterans Day Ceremony was well attended and went well, as did the same ceremony we do on a smaller scale at the Extended Nursing Care Center in Golden Valley. Remember also that December 7th (1941) is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

- Friday Dec. 9th & Jan. 13th from 6-8pm it's the **LEGION CHARCOAL GRILLED STEAK DINNER** with baked potato, mushrooms, dinner roll and **SALAD BAR \$10.00.**
- Sunday Dec. 11th & Jan. 15th from 9-1pm it's the **LEGION FAMILY CHARCOAL GRILLED STEAK AND EGG BREAKFAST** with American Fries, toast, juice and coffee \$7.00.
- After the December Post and Auxiliary meetings we'll have a Pot Luck feed. So attend your meetings and bring something to eat if you like.
- There will be a **POT LUCK DINNER** and 2 **FREE Tom Jerri's** starting at 1pm on New Year's Day.
- **WE LOVE OUR VETERANS FOOD DRIVE** will begin January 1st through Valentines Day anything you can contribute would be appreciated.

I also want to thank Operations Manager Sharon, Gambling Manager Jim, Cook Tony and all the employees and volunteers who worked all year to improve and move this Post forward.

Some Dates to remember: January 2nd (1967 Operation Bolo began over North Vietnam. January 17th (1991) Operation Desert Storm began. January 22nd (1944) the Allies landed at Anzio, Italy.

In closing let's not forget our Troops in harms way they need our continued support. May the "FORCE" be with them.

I want to wish them and you and everyone a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your support

OPEN MEETING POLICY

All current members are welcome to attend any board or committee meeting as an observer. Meetings conducted behind closed doors and any business conducted therein are not valid

Fun Facts

76% of drivers think they are above average in skill and safety
98% of people think they have above average intelligence
(That is The Lake Wobegone Effect—where "all the children are above average")

Note: Contact information has been removed so that the web version will not be inviting to SPAM search engines—please refer to the website

Legion Officers

Commander	George Jansen
1st Vice Commander	Larry Kallin
2nd Vice Commander	Joe Yenkosky
Adjutant	Sandy Jacobs
Finance Officer	Pete Nelson
Chaplain	Severt "Coach" Legred
Sgt. At Arms	Don Rudser
Historian	John "Captain" Felcyn
Service Officer	Craig Hartman

Executive Board

Executive Board	Jon Prentis
Executive Board	Craig Hartman
Executive Board	Ken Griese

Auxiliary Officers

Unit President	Jackie Miller
1st Vice President	Doris Rindahl
2nd Vice President	Anne Bordwell
Treasurer	Teresa Harrold
Secretary	Susan Trussell
Chaplain	Chris Henkels
Sgt. At Arms	Mildred Davison
Historian	Jackie Miller
Membership Chair	Doris Rindahl

Sons Of The American Legion Officers

Commander	David "Chico" Jenkins
1st Vice Commander	Cary Hagstrom
2nd Vice Commander	Mark Starbird
Finance Officer	Tom Skalberg

The American Legion Riders—Officers

Director	Evan Komar
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Gambling Manager

Gambling Manager	Jim Kummer
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THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

The American Legion Post ▪ The Auxiliary ▪ The Sons Of The American Legion ▪ The American Legion Riders

The First Vice Reports

By Larry Kallin

Holiday greetings to all veterans and current military.

God bless all of the families and friends.

The legion had a ceremony at the post on November 11 at the post and the next day at Golden Valley nursing home. I would like to see the Legion post full for next year. All members should take one day and get involved in a family member or veterans event to say thank you for serving.

As the year comes to a close we cannot let membership close down. We are at 310 paid up members and need to reach 402. Memberships are trickling in and new members keep joining. If you know a potential member have him join or call me at 952-906-2132. If there is a hardship case we can help. I will start calling or contacting non renewals to see if there is an issue for not renewing.

As you renew please remember that we serve great lunch's and specials at the Legion. Gather a group of friends once or twice a month for lunch. Let me know and I might buy a pitcher for your table. Keep coming to legion functions and the post meeting on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 PM.

Words to ponder: What did the fish say as he swam in to the wall? (Damn) Well "let's damn the torpedoes" and keep our post healthy.

I was in the hospital and am mending. I want to thank our Commander, George, for fulfilling my duties while I was out.

I salute you all

The Auxiliary Update

By Jackie Miller, President

Well it sure didn't take long to get into the holiday season! Please make sure to check the calendar for up-coming events. December always seems to be packed with parties, shopping etc. and you don't want to miss out!

Our membership currently stands at 147, you can renew your membership at any time, so please contact Doris Rindahl or myself if you have any questions. Also if you know of anyone who has expressed interest in becoming an Auxiliary member, we would love to have them. Let's all be active in keeping our Auxiliary a productive part of the Chester Bird!

The next meeting is Tuesday December 13th at 6:30 PM. We will be making wheelchair bags and blankets to donate to the VA. If you would like to help, we need people to cut and to sew, so please come join us, this will be a fun project!

The Bake Sale will be December 17th and 18th. Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday December 16 and on Saturday AM. Looking forward to all the yummy baked goods, so thank you in advance to all of you who donate your time and treats!

The Christmas Party/Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday December 18th from 9 AM to Noon. There will be pictures with Santa as well as activities and treats for the little ones. The breakfast is \$6.00 and includes; pancakes or French toast, sausage, eggs, juice and coffee. Please come down and join the fun!

One last note, we are collecting ladies business attire. The clothes will be used to help women who are applying for jobs and are in need of proper business wear. If you have any gently used items you would wish to donate, please bring them in to the Legion.

Thank you to all the volunteers, these are busy months and you should know your time is greatly appreciated! Be safe in your travels and have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As always, God Bless our Troops and their families.

Peace

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Dave "Chico" Jenkins, SAL Commander
"For God and Country"

Congratulation to S.A.L. member "Shep" Harris, the new Mayor of Golden Valley!

Merry Christmas from The Sons of The American Legion. I hope everyone has a prosperous new year.

Once again The Early Bird Dinner was a huge success! Thanks to all of those who helped out. The U.S. Naval Sea Cadets did an outstanding job of helping out and they sure did look sharp.

On Saturday Nov.12th some of us went to The Golden Valley Rehabilitation & Care Center and put on a Veterans Day Ceremony for the residents. We passed out flag pins and sang some songs.

Greetings to our new members Shep Harris, Chris Duda, Brent Hadoff and Paul Anderson. Welcome aboard. Membership is at 85 only 8 more to go and we'll have another "ALL TIME HIGH" so if you have not paid your dues please do. Regular dues are \$20.00 and dual membership is only \$10.00.

Turkey Bingo was a big success. A big thank you to all those who purchased and sold cards. Theresa and Fern did a fantastic job in the kitchen. Also a big thanks to Chef Tony and his staff for their help. A special thanks to Coach for the fine donation to help us make this Turkey Bingo more fun. The winner of the big turkey was Kyle Muray and she donated it to the Thanksgiving Dinner for Veterans and their families.

Mark your calendar for the S.A.L. mystery bus trip on Sunday, January 29th. The bus leaves at 12:00 sharp and returns about 5:30. Cost this year will be \$15.00. This year it will be pay in advance. Call now and get on the list 763-377-4252 or stop in and buy your tickets or mail your check to the post in the name of S.A.L. and we will mail your tickets to you. Cut-off date is January 24th. We will be going to American Legions. If you can guess the route you will get your \$15.00 back. There will be only one winner.

Sunday November 20th the Post hosted The Robbinsdale Whiz Bang Days Junior Royalty Pancake Breakfast. They served 150 guests. It was great to see such a good turn out. I hope we can do it again next year.

On Friday December 16th we will not be serving a dinner but there will be appetizers at 6:00 until gone. On January 20th we will be serving Beef Stroganoff made with sirloin and served over egg noodles, a garden salad, roll and butter. 6:00 - 8:00 \$7.00

P.S. To our dear Sharon - you have served our Post sincerely with dignity, kindness, devotion and most of all your expertise and hard work. For that you will be forever in our hearts and our loving memories. May you fully enjoy your retirement with a bit of spare time and renewed health. Please feel welcome here - we look forward to serving you for a change!

Attention Auxiliary Members Membership Chair Doris M. Rindahl

Thank you Auxiliary members for you continued support. As of November 8th our membership was at 147. Our goal number is 194. It is always great to have new members. The only way we can grow is through new members and new ideas. BUT we cannot forget the members that made our Auxiliary what it is today.

If you know of a member that is having financial difficulties and may need our assistance in paying her dues, please contact President Jackie Miller or myself. You could make a telephone call or place the information in a sealed envelope and have it placed in the membership envelope in the office, it would be kept confidential. The Auxiliary is there to help not only veterans but veterans and their FAMILY MEMBERS.

The Auxiliary Dues year runs from January to December, if you have not paid you 2011 dues by December 2011 you will be considered delinquent and your continuous years would be lost. If you have any questions regarding membership please contact me.



Chester Bird's New Year's Eve Bash
December 30th from 9 PM to 1 AM

Two Rail Drinks or Beer and Two "New" Appetizers for \$10 from 5-9 PM
A free Round of Champagne at Midnight & A Free Ride Home

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

The Second Vice Commander

Joe Yenkosky

With the announcement of Sharon Braaten's retirement, I was appointed as Interim General Manager to help provide a smooth transition. I had to make several difficult decisions; many of them irritating members and customers alike—unfortunately, many of the changes needed to be made by law.

The experience of sitting in as Interim GM did teach me a lesson—that I cannot run for Commander next year. George had announced that this term would be his last and to date no one has announced their intent to be his successor. As

Your Post Needs You!



long as a year ago I told officers of the post that I could not run due to my health issues (I have liver damage—NASH, COPD and neuropathy) after a PCB chemical spill in 1985, while I was on Active Duty.

Then as no one came forward to take on the responsibility, I changed my mind and decided to run and serve. My time sitting in for Sharon has made it clear that my health issues would keep me from complet-

ing the commander's duties, and so I again find myself letting members know that I cannot serve as commander in 2012.

This means George must find a qualified candidate willing to step up and serve their post and community as they did years ago, during a time of war. Please give it your consideration as a service to the post.

The Service Officer's Corner

Craig Hartman

Did you know that You may be entitled to extra social security benefits if you served on active duty between January 1957 to December 2001. You may qualify for a higher Social Security payment for your military service. Visit the social security website at: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm> to see if you qualify.

I was surprised at the number of calls that I received regarding vets health care eligibility and various other issues. I hope that the information that I gave you was helpful and got you going in the right direction. Remember that any issues that are discussed with a VSO are held to be strictly confidential and will not be discussed with any Officer or Member of the Post without your permission. That being said if any of you have questions or issues that you would like to get information on but would not feel comfortable discussing with me , you can try:

- 1) Hennepin County VSO, Milt Schoen @ 612-348-3300
Miltoschoen@co.hennepin.mn.us
- 2) Disabled American Veterans @ 612-970-5665
www.dav.org

Now did you know that, apparently the VSO is supposed to be responsible for the annual food drive? Ya me too. So when I got the call the other day asking how the plans for the drive were going, my initial response was "What Plans?" I know about as much about organizing a food drive as I do about underwater basket weaving. So when in doubt, **delegate**. I called longtime Bird member and CEO of NIDA Marketing, Mike Hrdlicka and as usual he said "yep come on over" and within one hour we had:

- 1) A time frame for the event, It kicks off in January and ends on Valentines Day.
- 2) A name for the event. The" WE LOVE OUR VETS" Food Drive.
- 3) A marketing plan for the Event.
- 4) A mascot for the event. Sgt Rufus. More about him latter.
- 5) Most important, a chairperson for the event. Mike Hrdlicka @ 763-546-1800.

"Thanks Mike" its always fun to let the Varsity team do what they do best. My only question is. "How do you make it look so Damn easy?"

And Now A Word From Our Sponsors

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If it's clogged ... We clear it fast & Right
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The Chester Bird Club (Operations) Leadership

Chair, Operations (Holding Corporation) Board of Directors—Pete Nelson
General Manager
Sharon Braaten (retiring) • Joe Yenkosky (Interim) • Incoming GM (to be announced)
Kitchen Manager—Anthony (Tony Schmidt)

The American Legion

Chester Bird Post 523

200 N. Lilac Drive, Golden Valley, MN 55422

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December 18th is a Very Special Sunday

Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast 9– Noon

Meat Raffle 3 PM

Auxiliary Bake Sale 1-3 PM

A Children's Christmas Party too!

And Oh, The Meat Raffle!

Nothing like a bit of protein with your pasta at home!

Wednesday at 6PM

Thursday at 6PM

Sunday at 3PM

**Chester Bird American Legion
Charitable Gambling Hours**

Monday–Friday 11AM to 12 Midnight

Saturday 11AM to 12 Midnight

Sunday 1PM to ?

Gambling License # A00991

The Bird Seed News By Chef Tony

Our entire kitchen staff would like to say thanks so much for your patronage!!! It has been and continues to be a pleasure to serve you.

Many of you have noted some changes being introduced within the Legion. We in the kitchen are excited , as we also plan a new direction for our lunch menu. We will be transitioning from our dinner style selections and will offer more light, fresh lunchtime fare. We plan to continue home made soups, sandwiches burgers and salads that we can customize to your personal taste.

We're also excited to be introducing Happy Hour appetizers. We will be doing a "test Run" of these tantalizing treats on New Year's Eve. Join us and you will agree that sometimes change can be a good thing.

Editor Correction—Oops—OK, lets try this again

If you had \$1 Billion and spent \$1,000 a day, it would take 2,740 years to spend it. (not days).

And the editor's offers his apology for the newsletter's late delivery - our printer had an illness and we had to use another printer

Post meeting facilities are available at no charge to not-for-profit organizations

Handicap Parking

When Utilizing this area, please prominently display your placard and park within the painted lines. Thank you.

We are on the Web!

**Sign up to get your e-newsletter at
Www.Chesterbird.com**






The Club Calendar - Events that you just can't miss!

Club Hours:
 Lunch: 11:00—1:30
 Mon—Fri: 10:30-1:00 AM
 Saturday: 10:00—1:00AM
 Sunday: 12 Noon—12 Midnight

December 2011

By General Manager Bert Couch



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
During Every Vikings Game The Bar Features: Vikings Drink Specials	<i>Coming in the New Year from The Bird Feeder Kitchen: A New Menu with Happy Hour Appetizers!</i> <i>Try them!</i>			1 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Taco Night 5-7 PM Meat Raffle 6 PM	2 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Beef Stew Dinner \$7 Karaoke 7- 11 PM	3 Bar Bingo 1 PM
4 Meat Raffle 3 PM 	5 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM \$1.50 Burger & \$1.50 French Fries Special 6-8 PM	6 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM	7 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Burger Night! Meat Raffle 6 PM SAL Mtg 6:30PM	8 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM \$4 Taco Night \$2 Margaritas 5-7 PM Meat Raffle 6 PM	9 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Legion Charcoal Steak Dinner \$10 6-8 PM Music by the Grizwaldz	10 Bar Bingo 1 PM
11 Legion Family \$7 Steak & Egg Breakfast 9Am-1PM Meat Raffle 3 PM	12 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Burger & French Fries Special 6-8 PM Holding Board Mtg 6:30	13 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Gambling Cmt 5:30 Post and Auxiliary Mtgs 6:30PM	14 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Burger Night! Meat Raffle 6 PM	15 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM \$4 Taco Night \$2 Margaritas 5-7 PM Meat Raffle 6 PM	16 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM SAL Appreciation Dinner 6PM-8PM Karaoke 7- 11 PM	17 Bar Bingo 1 PM Auxiliary Bake Sale 1-3 PM
18 Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast 9- Noon Meat Raffle 3 PM Auxiliary Bake Sale 1-3 PM	19 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM \$1.50 Burger & \$1.50 French Fries Special 6-8 PM	20 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM	21 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Burger Night! Meat Raffle 6 PM	22 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM \$4 Taco Night \$2 Margaritas 5-7 PM Meat Raffle 6 PM	23 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Traditional Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner \$8 6-8 PM Karaoke 7- 11 PM	24 Bar Bingo 1 PM Bar closes at 5:30
25 Closed for Christmas Have Wonderful Holiday	26 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM \$1.50 Burger & \$1.50 French Fries Special 6-8 PM	27 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM	28 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Burger Night! Meat Raffle 6 PM	29 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM \$4 Taco Night \$2 Margaritas 5-7 PM Meat Raffle 6 PM	30 Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Fried Chicken Dinner \$9 6-8 PM Karaoke 7- 11 PM	31 Bar Bingo 1 PM New Years Bash 9- 1AM
	Remembering the 70th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day <i>"a date which will live in infamy"</i> December 7, 1941—2011 (70 years)					



The Club Calendar - Events that you just can't miss!

Club Hours:

Lunch: 11:00-1:30

Mon-Fri: 10:30-1:00 AM

Saturday: 10:00-1:00AM

Sunday: 12 Noon-12 Midnight

January 2012

By General Manager Bert Couch



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Pot Luck Lunch 1-3 PM</p> <p>Two Free Tom & Jerri's at 1PM</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>\$1.50 Burger & \$1.50 French Fries Special 6-8 PM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM Burger Night! Meat Raffle 6 PM SAL Mtg 6:30PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>\$4 Taco Night \$2 Margaritas 5-7 PM Meat Raffle 6 PM</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>Hand Cut Boneless Pork Chop Dinner 6-8 PM \$8.50 Karaoke 7- 11 PM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Bar Bingo 1 PM</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Meat Raffle 3 PM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>\$1.50 Burger & \$1.50 French Fries Special 6-8 PM</p> <p>Holding Board Mtg 6:30</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>Gambling Cmt 5:30</p> <p>Post and Auxiliary Mtgs 6:30PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>Burger Night! Meat Raffle 6 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>\$4 Taco Night \$2 Margaritas 5-7 PM Meat Raffle 6 PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>Legion Charcoal Steak Dinner \$10 6-8 PM</p> <p>Music by the Grizwaldz</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Bar Bingo 1 PM</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Meat Raffle 3 PM</p> <p>Legion Family \$7 Steak & Egg Breakfast 9Am-1PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>\$1.50 Burger & \$1.50 French Fries Special 6-8 PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>Burger Night! Meat Raffle 6 PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>\$4 Taco Night \$2 Margaritas 5-7 PM Meat Raffle 6 PM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>SAL Dinner</p> <p>Sirloin Beef Stroganoff over egg Noodles & salad 6 - 8PM \$7.00</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Bar Bingo 1 PM</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Meat Raffle 3 PM</p> <p>Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast 9- Noon</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>\$1.50 Burger & \$1.50 French Fries Special 6-8 PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>Burger Night! Meat Raffle 6 PM</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>\$4 Taco Night \$2 Margaritas 5-7 PM Meat Raffle 6 PM</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>Fried Chicken Dinner \$9 6PM-8PM</p> <p>Karaoke 7- 11 PM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bar Bingo 1 PM</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Meat Raffle 3 PM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p> <p>\$1.50 Burger & \$1.50 French Fries Special 6-8 PM</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Two for One Drink Special 2-4 PM</p>	<p>Don't Forget Lunch! 11Am - 1:30 PM Weekdays Sandwiches, Soups and Daily Specials!</p>			

It's not the price you pay to be a member . . . It's the price you paid to become eligible. Thank you for your Service!



God Bless America

