



For God and  
Country

# The Bird Call

American Legion—Chester Bird Post 523 Newsletter  
200 Lilac Lane, Golden Valley MN, 55422 (763-377-4252)  
**October & November 2011**



## The New Newsletter "The Only thing that never changes is change itself"

The New version of our newsletter will bring some changes – hopefully you will think all are good. We needed to consolidate the printed newsletter process to avoid overworking our volunteers and for financial reasons.

We are also taking the opportunity to switch to a bi-monthly version. This allows us to give you a calendar to hang up in your kitchen and make it easier to read with black and white print and enlarged print. We also added a few items you may enjoy, as we try to brighten up your day.

Goodness knows, there will be errors, so as you explore this new format and process, please let me know what you think, including any errors you see in the newsletter itself.

Joe Yenkosky, newsletter editor

## The Commander's Corner By George Jansen

Hello again, I hope all is well with everyone.

Keep in Mind that on October 13th (1775) the US Navy was established.

Friday October 14th from 6-8pm it's the LEGION CHARCOAL GRILLED STEAK DINNER with baked potato, mushrooms, dinner roll and SALAD BAR \$10.00.

Sunday October 16th from 9-1pm it's the LEGION FAMILY CHARCOAL GRILLED STEAK AND EGG BREAKFAST with American Fries, toast, juice and coffee \$7.00.

Saturday October 22nd it's the EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIP DINNER. Remember you must have your 2012 dues paid to attend. Please pay your dues by Tuesday morning of October 18th. We will be serving our OUTDOOR GRILLED PRIME RIB DINNER. This is a reservation only dinner. Paid up Post members and their spouse dine free, if your not married you may bring a guest but that persons meal will cost \$11.00. Auxiliary and SAL paid up members are welcome. There will be two seating times; 5:30 and 7pm please specify. The sign up sheet is on the Commanders Board at the Post.

Veterans Day (November 11th) falls on our Steak Dinner night so the Post Ceremony will be held at 4pm - stop by to honor veterans and stay for the steak!

### Tight on Money?

If you had \$1 Billion and spent \$1,000 a day, it would take 2,740 to spend it. Oh, and The United States has 413 current Billionaires.

## The Auxiliary Update

By Jackie Miller, President

In closing lets not forget our troops in harm's way. They need our continued support. May the "FORCE" be with

Our meetings have resumed and I believe we may have some exciting new ideas to work on this year! Our membership is currently at 124 with 8 junior members. Also, please note the membership years reflected on your cards has been corrected to show your continuous years. If you have any questions about this, please contact Doris Rindahl or myself.

Mark your calendars; the next meeting is Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We will have the students who were sponsored for Girls State coming in to share their experiences, Doris will be presenting pins for the new officers and we will be discussing responsibilities of each elected position. If you are a new member, this would be a good opportunity to come in and see what the Auxiliary is about.

The Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 to Noon. Choices are pancakes or French toast and include sausage, eggs, juice or coffee – all for just \$6.00!

Please check the Legion boards for up-coming events and volunteer opportunities, there is always something happening!

As always, God Bless our Troops and their Families.

## LEGION AND AUXILIARY MEETINGS

**October 11 and November 8 at 6:30 PM**

### Legion Officers

Commander	George Jansen commander@chesterbird.com
1st Vice Commander	Larry Kallin larrykallin@msn.com
2nd Vice Commander	Joe Yenkosky— jyenkosky@gmail.com
Adjutant	Sandy Jacobs
Finance Officer	Pete Nelson
Chaplain	Severt "Coach" Legred
Sgt. At Arms	Don Rudser
Historian	John "Captain" Felcyn
Service Officer	Craig Hartman Chartmanathome@q.com

### Auxiliary Officers

Unit President	Jackie Miller auxiliarypresident@chesterbird.com
1st Vice President	Doris Rindahl
2nd Vice President	Anne Bordwell
Treasurer	Theresa Harrold
Secretary	Audrey Harms
Chaplain	Chris Henkels
Sgt. At Arms	Mildred Davidson
Historian	Jackie Miller
Membership Chair	Doris Rindahl

### The October Classic—Trivia

Shoeless Joe Jackson's  
shoes are in the Baseball Hall Of Fame.

## The First Vice Reports

By Larry Kallin

Hello again from an Air Force Viet Nam era veteran. Our membership at the Legion is going pretty well. We stand at 275 members who have paid their dues with 9 of those being new members. Our goal is 402, so we can surpass last year.

Don't forget to sign up early for the Early Bird dinner – there are a limited number of seats and you need to sign up and have your membership paid by October 18th. During the dinner, I hope to hear old and vintage war stories from some of our members to pass on to our newer members. Bring your stories to the Early Bird Dinner, and yes, you can exaggerate – we won't mind.

If you missed me at the September meeting, as I attended a rally at Legionville. This was my first time there, and it was surprising. Legionville is an American Legion program that trains 10-13 years olds on correct school crossing guard – traffic patrol procedures and first aid.. There are Barracks to stay in and camp grounds for tents or RV's, so volunteering for some time there can be a family event, or just some time away from the city. This year, the SAL from the 6th and 10th districts served some pretty good chow for everyone. We might want to plan a gathering up there next spring or summer as a post. event.

We all should also try to attend our post meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. The opinions of all our members is important, and it is the best way for you to know how many things we do for veterans and the community.

I recently was talking to a younger, active member (his father is a current member). He was wondering why we don't reach out to current Iraq and Afghanistan troops to bridge a connection. We do in informal ways such as our Girl Scout Cookies program and the current effort to help recently returning veterans at the North Hennepin Community College Veterans Group (Joe Hulbert is coordinating that effort). But we can and should do more. If you have some time to help in this venture call me at [952-906-2132](tel:952-906-2132).

Let us provide a good example for the young members of our post, so they can reach out to new young members. A good first step is to remember that the post will pay for the membership for anyone on active duty.

Also if you have not turned your membership into a Lifetime membership we can do that, as I have the conversion sheet.

## The Service Officer's Corner

Craig Hartman

Did you know that all Disabled Veterans are entitled to ride on Metro Transit busses and Light rail trains free? All you have to do is produce your Veterans Identification Card that is issued by the VA Medical Center with the words "Service Connected" or "SC" below the photo.

Don't have a service connected disability? Or have you tried to file for one in the past and quit because you ran into a wall of Red Tape? Do you have questions about VA entitlements, benefits or programs? Well that's one of the many things that a Service Officer is there to help you with.

If you have questions my phone number is 763-544-9047. My E-Mail is [CHARTMANATHOME@q.com](mailto:CHARTMANATHOME@q.com). Give me a call and if I can't answer your questions we will find someone who can.

## The Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Dave "Chico" Jensen, SAL Commander

Greetings from the Son's! Meetings resumed in September. Remember, meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. You are welcome and encouraged to attend. See you on October 5th and November 2nd!

We donated \$200 to the Disabled Veteran's Deer Hunt at Camp Ripley that takes place on October 4-6 this year. We expect 60 veterans in the hunt, and my brother Joe and I will be again volunteering in the preparation of meals for the event.

On Saturday, November 12th at 2:00 PM, as in years past, a group of us go to the Golden Valley Rehabilitation and Nursing Center to present a small Veterans Day ceremony. We sing many favorites with them including The Star Spangled Banner, God Bless America and America The Beautiful. If you can join us call me at 763-377-4253 and expect to leave with a warm fuzzy feeling even when the weather is cold.

Membership is going well—we have 53 paid members already. We need only 46 more to reach an all time high. If you have not paid your dues, please do so we can be the first squadron in the 10th to reach an all time high.

Friday, October 1st from 6-8PM we will be serving an Oktoberfest Dinner. There will also be a special on a pint of Guinness beer. We will be serving bratwurst from New Germany, with red, green & yellow peppers, potato salad sauerkraut. Additional brats are \$2.50.

Mark your calendar! Its Turkey Time again and that means the Son's Annual Turkey Bingo is near. On Friday, November 18th, Theresa and Fern will be cooking up burgers, shrimp and chicken fritter Baskets. Food starts at 5:30 and Bingo at 7PM. One card is still only 25 cents and three are only 50 cents. There will also be cash prizes.

## The American Legion Riders (ALR)

by Evan Komar, Legion Riders Director

### ALR Bikers Notes

I'd like to extend a special thanks to Vice Director David "Ole" Oleson and members Jeff Halseth, Buddy Brown and Craig Wishy the Chester Bird American Legion Riders for their support and participation in the American Pride Car and Bike Show. Without their help with the set-up and tear down things would not have gone so smoothly. Thanks Again.

Legion Riders meetings have been rescheduled to the Sundays with the Steak & Egg Breakfast from 10 AM - Noon. This will help members who are unable to attend weekday meetings.

Anyone interested in joining or getting more information on our organization are welcome to attend and enjoy the breakfast too. Breakfast is only \$7.00 per person.

### American Pride Car & Bike Show Volunteer Meetings

We are scheduling meetings for those people who would like to be a part of the 2012 show's planning. Volunteers are needed for a verity of projects and assignments. Join us to see what gear heads do at night! Thursdays at 6:00 pm (yep, that's Taco Night) - and bring with you your ideas.

**EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIP DINNER - OUTDOOR GRILLED PRIME RIB DINNER**

**October 22 - 5:30 & 7:00 Limited Seating's - make your reservation early - by reservation only**

- Need to have your 2012 dues paid by the morning of October 18th

**The Chaplain's Tidbits**

By Severt "Coach" Legred

This section will now include a "Taps" for members and their family. Please contact the Second Vice Commander, Joe Yenkosky at 612-202-7678 with any updated family information.

Look to next month, when the story of The Four Chaplains' is included in this feature.

**The Second Vice Commander**

Joe Yenkosky

The **2nd Annual Roll On With American Pride Car and Bike Show** was a success, as we raised over \$1500 toward Prisoner of War and Missing in Action (POW-MIA) causes.

We had 32 cars, bikes and well, God only knows what vehicles at the show and an estimated 300 guests came by for a look. The show had a character artist who made drawings of several contestants as well as a DJ.

Check out the car and event pictures on our web site and for a limited time at our bar (on the promotion-video TV). Many thanks to the twenty four volunteers who made it all happen.

And as you would guess, the work carries on even after the show. Evan Komar is the 2012 Show Coordinator, and he will be having meetings each Thursday night at 6PM - much offseason work goes toward setting up the promotion of the next show, getting the word out to other car shows (boy, that doesn't sound like hard work!) and arranging sponsor contributions.

All who are interested are welcome.



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**The Historical View**

By John Felcyn, Post Historian

**So Who Was Chester Bird?**

The Chester Bird post honors and is dedicated to the memory of Private Chester D. Ptaszek, U.S. Army (*pronounced: pea-ot-zig*). Private Ptaszek lost his life in the Second World War. "Chester Bird" was his nickname, as Ptaszek is a Polish derivation of "bird". Pvt. Ptaszek was 35 when he was reported Missing In Action (MIA) and then confirmed to have died in France on August 1, 1944.

Chester Bird served in the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 115 Regiment, who were part of the first wave of soldiers to storm Normandy, France, at Omaha Beach, on June 6, 1944. This was the very beach depicted in the now famous movie, "Saving Private Ryan". More than 32,450 soldiers landed at Omaha Beach that day, where over 2,000 were killed on the first day alone. The 115<sup>th</sup> Regiment then proceeded to The Northern France Campaign. 1st first objective was an important submarine base at Brest, France. Fierce fighting was reported in the battle that took place from July 27-29, 1944. Chester Bird was reported to have died before August 1<sup>st</sup>, and was listed as MIA from the 29<sup>th</sup> of July until reported Killed In Action. He is believed to be laid to rest in Southern France among thousands of other soldiers who gave their lives in this campaign. While Chester Bird did not live to complete the 115<sup>th</sup> campaign, his regiment continued into Belgium and later culminated their service in the capture of Germany.

The American Legion chartered Post 523 in February 1946, and dedicated it to Chester D. Ptaszek, Private, United States Army; whom served with honor and dedication; and paid the ultimate price for to the freedom of our nation.

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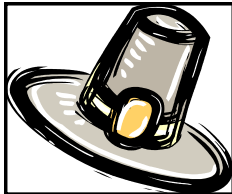
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## Thanksgiving Dinner - For Veterans & Family

November 24, 2011 –1:00 PM seating - by reservation only

Cost— We accept donations that go to Veteran Causes



### Chester Bird American Legion Charitable Gambling Hours

Monday—Friday	1 1AM to 12 Midnight
Saturday	11AM to 12 Midnight
Sunday	1PM to ?

Gambling License # A00991

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.

#### OPEN MEETING POLICY

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

### And Oh, The Meat Raffle!

Nothing like a bit of protein with that pasta!

Wednesday at 6PM

Sunday at 3PM

### Gambling News Report!

Join us, starting on October 1st for Bingo

- *New Games*
- *New Payouts*
- *The Famous Dog and Pony Show*

*And the same good times, food and drinks!*

We are on the Web!

[Www.Chesterbird.com](http://www.Chesterbird.com)