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Commanders Column

Dear Comrades,

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday with your family. AND that you got everything you wanted.

Have a Safe and Healthy New Year.

Check out our website for our doings on New Years Eve bar bingo, horse races, etc.

Also, check out our website for February 14th, Valentines Day.

February 11th we will have our Fish Tournament at Coon Lake from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m. Bumpy the Clown and Sgt. John Rice will host the event.

We should reach 100% in membership in the next month or so.

We welcome Mark Schupta, a retired Air Force Colonel and CFO at Camp Ripley, who is being trained in as gaming manager.

We feel winter all around us but know Spring will be here before we know it. Just hang in there and be safe.

Department Mid-Winter Convention is coming up January 12 - 15th at the Marriott NW in Brooklyn Park.

The Tri-Wheel is definitely going to be put in - a decision will be made as to where is the best location in the Post.

God Bless You and all our members. If you have any questions or concerns, call me at 651-285-5459.

Your Commander
Randy Monson



Greetings VFW Auxiliary Members!

Hello Brothers, Sisters, and Comrades,

Happy New Year. December was a busy month for the Auxiliary. We shopped for Christmas presents for 25 Veterans at the Minneapolis Veterans Home, had a wonderful time with the Children at the Christmas Party, had a great bake sale, enjoyed caroling at the White Pines Assisted Living Home, held a Blood Drive and food Drive, attended the Auxiliary and District Meetings and enjoyed the holidays with our family and friends. Wow what busy people you are. Thank you for your dedication to our Auxiliary, Veterans, their families, and our communities.

Midwinter conference is just around the corner, January 13th thru 15th, in Brooklyn Park. We will have a display for conference. Thank you Mary Lou. We had 1 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY essay entry and 11 PATRIOTS PEN essay entries. Hope to see many at Conference.

Our program year is three fourths over. In the next couple months we will be completing our programs as the Auxiliary year-end reports are due the end of March. If you have a function you would like to have the Auxiliary do, please bring it to the meetings. We are always looking for ways to get more involved with our communities and our Veterans.

New event, we will be serving coffee and rolls to our Veterans the 2nd Monday, 10am, of the month at our Post Home. This is time for the Veterans to meet other Veterans, share stories, and enjoy time together. They do not have to be from our Post. Let's pass the word.

Remember to report your volunteer hours, mileage, and what the event was about. The Auxiliary will file it for year-end reports and give the information to the Post for their community service reports. Thank you.

To those who have been ill we wish you a speedy recovery and to those who have lost a loved one our prayers and sympathies are with you and your family.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Doris Anderson
Auxiliary President

Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary

Greetings Members!

The end of this MOCA year marks the 50th Anniversary of our Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary #11, Lucky 'Leven (Chartered August 14, 1973). I am sending a heartfelt "Thank You" to all of you for your many years of service to the Cooties, our hospitalized veterans, their families, and to our community.

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that our reign has come to an end. The MOC Pup Tent has voted to turn in their Charter, which means we will also be surrendering ours. If you haven't received your letter yet, please keep an eye out for it in your mail.

I am so very proud and thankful to have been your MOCA President these last few years. Through the hard work and dedication of our members, we have won many awards over the years. A very special "Thank You" to Gladys Broker. Gladys was MOCA President for many years and her leadership will always be remembered. A special Thank You to Mary Lou Michels also. She has held the position of Secretary/ Treasurer for many years and has kept us on track with her attention to detail and her willingness to mentor me and keep me informed.

I would also like to thank MOC Seam Squirrel James "Smiley" Harvieux for his years as Seam Squirrel and his many years of devotion to this organization.

Our prayers go out to those that are ill and our sympathy to those that have lost a loved one.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year- may all your days be filled with good health and happiness.

President Shelley Solheid
Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary
Pup Tent #11, Lucky 'Leven

Now Hear This Cooties:

- At our December 13th, 2022 Scratch the members present have decided to disband our Pup Tent.
- We were all notified by letter on November 15th, 2022, to this special meeting to turn in our Charter at the end of our term in April by this election.
- Since we will no longer be able to do any business, we will continue our officer obligation to the Grand of MN and the Supreme organization in the prescribed manner.
- THANKS to all what you did for our organization.
- Happy Trails to you all until we meet again.
- Respectfully submitted
James "Smiley" Harvieux, Seam Squirrel
612-789-8741



VFW Auxiliary Membership

- We only have one more annual member to collect from to be 100% in Membership.
- We welcome new members. Call me at 763-434-6580 to receive a form.
- Mary Lou Michels,
Sr. Vice President & Membership Chairman

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

On November 6th, we had our Veterans Dinner, Thanking our Veterans, recognizing Membership and recognizing Past Commanders, VFW Auxiliary Presidents, Men's Auxiliary Presidents and Cootie Seam Squirrels and Auxiliary Presidents. Over 115 Veterans and families were present. Speakers for the evening were 7th District Commander Jarrod and Blue Star Mother and President of the Anoka Chapter Pam McCabe. 7th District Membership Chairman Denise Mattson also was in attendance.

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 14642, serving the Blaine, Andover, Coon Rapids, Ramsey and Anoka area, for their help serving cake and coffee to the guests. Their leader Jami, her daughter, Marissa, Amanda and her daughter Sophie also helped with clean-up.

Thank you to the Auxiliary members who helped with set-up and take-down. It was wonderful.

On November 27th ten Auxiliary members met at the Post Home to decorate the big hall for the Holidays. A special thank you to Commander Randy for bringing in all the trees and decorations, to Joyce & Carl, JoAnn, Eloise, Joanne, Shirley, Wendy, Ann, Doris, & Mary Lou for all your help. It's always a BIG job but it seems to go fast with all the extra hands.

On Sunday, December 4th, we had the Children's Christmas Party. Fifty-five plus children and their families were in attendance. A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule to listen to the children's request. To Mrs. Claus for helping Santa with the gifts for the children, To Bumpy the Clown who delights the children with his balloon characters, To Girl Scout Troop 14642 Jamie, Amanda & Sophie for helping, To Marge handing out the bags for the children's treats, to Scott for passing out Pop to the families, To Ann, Eloise, JoAnn, Joanne, Doris and Shirley for handing out the Lunch to the Children, to our youth who helped the children with the games, Bella, Sarah, Rose, McKensie, Savanna & Sierra. We appreciate all your help.



Commander Randy and VFW Auxiliary President, Doris at the Veterans Dinner



Veterans Day L to R 7th District Commander Jarrod, 7th District Auxiliary President and Blaine VFW Auxiliary President Doris, Blue Star Mother & President of Anoka Chapter Pam McCabe, 7th District Membership Chairman Denise Mattson and Blaine VFW Commander Randy Monson



Members who received their pins at the Veterans & Membership Dinner

Children's Christmas Party

Even bigger kids had Christmas lists for Santa





VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

What an amazing Auxiliary we have at Sgt. John Rice! Christmas gifts were purchased and donated by our members for more than 20 veterans residing in the Minneapolis Veterans home, along with more than 200 cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you to everyone that made these happen. Thank you to all our members and non-members that donated food items for our local food shelf. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The VFW and Sport Clips give scholarships to our nation's heroes as a way of thanking them for their dedicated service to our nation. The VFW "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" awards scholarships of up to \$5,000 to qualifying veterans and service members to help them with their educational goals. To learn more, visit vfw.org/student-veterans-support.



**FEBRUARY 14TH, 2023
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY**

ATTENTION VETERANS

Starting January 9th and each month after on the 2nd Monday of each month we would like to welcome you to the Post at 10:00 a.m. for coffee and donuts, cookies, etc. and give you the chance to visit with other Veterans. Here is your chance to get out of the house and meet other Veterans. You don't have to be a member at our Post, you are welcome to come. Tell your fellow Veterans. We want you to know you are appreciated. Thank you for your service.



CANCER GRANTS

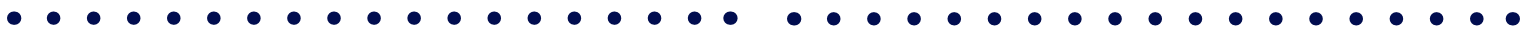
If you or you know of a member who has cancer, we do offer cancer grants. Just call Mary Lou at 763-434-6580 and I will mail you a form. The form is filled out by you and your doctor and all the information is confidential.



BAKE SALES

Thank you to all who patronize our bake sales. Mark your calendar for the January 20th Bake Sale starting at 4:00 and for our February 17th Bake Sale starting at 4:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, call Ann at 763-717-0641.



BLOOD DRIVES

Thank you to all who give "The Gift of Life" by donating blood. Remember each unit collected can help three patients.

Our next Blood Drive will be February 14th, 12:00 - 5:00.

You can sign up on line or you can call Mary Lou at 763-434-6580



SEWING COMMITTEE

Our Sewing Committee recently made all the treat bags for the Children's Christmas Party.

The sewing committee meet Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Post Home.

Call Marge at 763-757-1729 with questions.



POW/MIA PRAYER

Almighty God,
We thank you for the silence
and time to pray.

We thank you for the blessings you
have so graciously bestowed
on us in our lifetime.

May we always be grateful for what
You and others are doing for us.

We ask your blessing upon all of those who have
served our Country and presented
themselves before you.

We ask your special blessings upon all Americans
who are Missing in Action or Prisoners of War.

Grant them the strength to endure
the hardships of imprisonment,
the loss of their loved ones and the
America that so heroically serve.

You know where they are
and how they are being treated,
strengthen them and us
in our time of sorrow that we may know
your divine will and persevere in our struggle
to locate and return them home.

Soften the hearts
of those who keep them prisoners and may they
hear your message of justice for those who
hold prisoners unjustly.

Bless our Country and bless those who continue to
seek the release and return of our Prisoners
of War and Missing in Action.

You are our strength and hope,
to You we turn in this hour of Need.

Remember our POW/MIA's in your prayers
everyday!

Joyce Pierret, POW/MIA Chairman

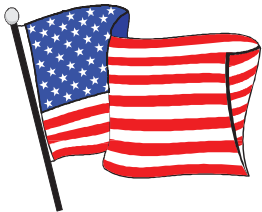
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January/February 2023

SGT. JOHN RICE VFW





SGT. JOHN R. RICE
US Army World War II - Korea
Killed in Action Tabu-Dong, Korea on 6 September 1950

*A career soldier who gave his life for his country.
Denied burial in Sioux City, Iowa, because of his race.
Through the intercession of President Truman,
Sergeant John Rice was buried with honors at
Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.*

