



From Commander Frank Rutledge:

2011 is about to be placed into the history books. Hopefully in 2012 we will see some improvements in the economy, relief from unemployment and resolution to the many conflicts that consume us. We have been saddened by the loss of several of our members. They certainly have not been forgotten as they are often remembered during our daily conversations. Membership continues to decline due to these losses but we continue to encourage people to join and more importantly to get involved.

We have several events coming up that we would like to inform you of, so take some time out and join us for some fun! These are happening soon: the Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party, decorating the legion for Christmas, Christmas Eve open house, and New Year's Eve game night. Don't forget BINGO every Thursday night. Of course the Post Home kitchen is open most Friday evenings. Some other activities include the Flea Market/Rummage Sale on December 3rd from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

COME AND ENJOY TIME WITH YOUR LEGION FRIENDS!

Before we tell you about the activities, we want to remind you about the Gifts To Yanks program. If you can make a donation, it would really be appreciated by our veterans! All of the proceeds go towards providing a little something for our Veterans in the VA nursing homes or in housing facilities. Donations can be made payable to "Gifts to Yanks" and sent to the Post Home at the address at the top. Funds are sent to our state headquarters where they are distributed.

Upcoming and Ongoing Events

- The Post Home opens Wednesday thru Saturday at 3 p.m. and closes based on the presence of patrons. Our staff includes Ginger Colvin, Kelly Howell and Samantha Reed.
- Post Home Christmas Decorating: November 25th We will start at about 9 a.m. There are two Christmas trees to decorate, wreaths to put on the outside of the building and the bar room. We have done this in the past and have had a great time...come join us!
- Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party: December 7th and yes, Santa will be there! This is one of the highlights of the year for the Auxiliary. The men cook a fabulous meal, serve it and even clean up afterwards. The show-stoppers are always the desserts, grasshoppers and sleigh rides. The gift-exchange has a twist to it too! Make reservations by calling the Post Home at the number at the top of the page.
- Christmas Eve Open House: The Post Home will open at 11 a.m. Soup and ham sandwiches will be served. Bring a snack food to share. Bring the family and share a drink or come and visit your friends—or make new ones! We will close early around 6 or 7 p.m.
- New Years Eve Game Night: Bring a covered dish. Meat entrée will be provided. The Post Home will open at 3 p.m. with game night starting around 7 p.m. In the past we have played dominoes, dice games, euchre, pool, etc. Party favors will be provided. Come and spend a couple of hours or the entire evening!
- Kitchen: The kitchen is usually open Friday evenings. The first Friday of the month features steak and chicken where the remaining Fridays during the month feature fish (cod, either grilled or fried) and chicken. Some other entrées include tenderloins, pork chops, steak and chicken fingers.



- **BINGO:** Every Thursday night (except for holidays). We start selling cards at 6 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. Typically, regular games pay \$40 or more depending on the number of people playing. We're done about 9:15 p.m. You can have a full night of enjoyment for only \$12 - and that buys all the games! That's a great night of entertainment for very little money. The kitchen is also open and serves chili, hot dogs, polish, nachos, hot pretzels and there is a featured meal item that changes weekly.
- **Flea Market:** Every now and then we have a flea market and rummage sale. The next one is on December 3rd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Website:** Don't forget that your American Legion has a website that has all the information about our Post Home, activities, memorial list of members who have passed away, forms for joining and renting our facilities, archived newsletters, pictures from events, BINGO winners section, Auxiliary and SAL information as well as links to other areas of interest including state and national American Legion sites. The link to the website is at the bottom of the page.

We also want to send out a huge thank you to all of you that assisted with the gates during the National Sweet Corn Festival and our two Pancake Days. These are our largest fundraisers for the year. The funds are used to defray the cost of our real estate taxes, insurance and repair/improvements to the Post Home.

Let us not forget to thank all of our volunteers that assist with BINGO, fish/steak fries, building and ground committee, and honor guard as well as all of the other committees. A special thank you goes out to the Ladies Auxiliary and to our staff.

Speaking of our staff we have two new people helping us: Kelly Howell (bartending and Post Home cleaning) and Samantha Reed who just started with us (bartending and Post Home cleaning). Kelly has been with us for a while, but Samantha has just begun working for us and is a graduate of Southern Illinois University - Centralia.

