

## SIXTH DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE April 29, 2007 Post 75 Fond du Lac

The Sixth District Spring Conference was hosted by and held at the Fond du Lac Post 75 clubhouse on Sunday April 29, 2007.

Formal opening was conducted by Commander Bill Stiefvater followed by welcoming addresses and responses. Greetings were extended from Fond du Lac Post 75 Commander Marcus Oksa, the Sixth District Auxiliary Vice President Dorothy Gruber as well as Wisconsin Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Kirk Hove.

Department Vice Commander David Kurtz addressed the delegates present. He presented an update on commercialization of grounds at the Milwaukee Veterans Affairs Hospital.

Roll call was conducted. All District officers were present except Parliamentarian Chris Cerney and Service Officer Gerald Beuthin who were excused and Immediate Past District Commander Ken Nimmer. All six county commanders were present. There were 42 Post delegates present representing 17 Posts.

Minutes of the District Fall Conference, District Spring DEC meeting, District finance report and proposed 2007-2008 District budget were all approved as printed.

The conference was addressed by Department Commander Chuck Cooney who pointed out the District has been leading all other Districts in membership for a very long time now and expressed his thanks and indicated he feels we will reach one hundred percent. He addressed a need for Post officers to review American Legion protocol to ensure Post meetings are conducted properly. He spoke about the need to support our military personnel. He discussed meal preparation and service at the Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove and fielded a question regarding media reported conditions at Walter Reed Hospital.

Candidates for election at the summer state convention addressed the conference including candidates for Department Commander David Kurtz and Don Schindler; Vice Commander Gordon Knutson; and Sergeant at Arms Nellie DeBaker.

The Adjutant/Finance Officer announced he would be leaving that position and suggested an audit of his finance records be done prior to the state convention rather than around the time of the fall conference to provide a timely and effective turnover of finances to the incoming District adjutant. The commander appointed Vice Commander Central Harry Barkholtz, Omro Post 234 Commander John Hoefl and Chilton Post 125 Post Commander Mirca Van Den Elsen to hold an audit at Fond du Lac Post 75 at 7 PM Thursday July 12. with the outgoing and incoming District adjutants both present.

Green Lake County Commander Fred Barke reported a stone was dedicated at the High Ground in Neilsville which was sponsored by all county veterans service organizations.

Tony Soda reported that all three District SAL squadrons are at or over 100% in membership.

The Americanism report was presented by Vice Commander East Harland Zietlow since long time chairman Lloyd Habermann is presently experiencing back problems which keep him at home at this time.

The District A&G Testing chairman reported all District winners were also state winners and that 1251 students at schools within the District participated.

Gary Mader announced items of interest regarding events taking place at the King Veterans Home as well as programs and repairs/updates.

The Children and Youth chairman reported the District had three counties submit entries for consideration in the elementary school patriotic poster contest. Entries were received from Calumet,

Green Lake and Manitowoc counties. The Calumet county entry was judged to be the District winner. Each county winning student will receive \$25 and the school of the District winner will receive \$100.

Camp American Legion Director Jim Youngquist gave a power point presentation on Camp American Legion after which Commander Stiefvater presented Director Youngquist with a District donation of \$500.

The Public Safety chairman reported receiving a nomination of Gary Failor of Ripon for EMT and Chris Stieber of Ripon as Police Officer of the year who will be submitted to Department as District nominees.

The Legislative chairman reported that it has been indicated approximately 40% of the troops returning from tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan exhibit symptoms of PTSD.

The District Chaplain conducted our annual memorial service in honor of all District Legionnaires who passed away in the past year.

The Fall Conference was awarded to Green Lake and Marquette county councils and will be held Sunday October 28 at CJ's in Ripon.

The 2008 Americanism banquet was awarded to Fond du Lac Post 75.

Two resolutions were forwarded to the District for endorsement prior to be sent to Department for consideration by the state convention in Green Bay. Ripon Post 43 submitted a resolution to open membership in The American Legion to Cold War veterans. Marquette County Council submitted a resolution to allow a second term of office for Department Commanders and Vice Commanders. Both resolutions were endorsed by the District Conference.

Election of officers was conducted for the 2007-2009 period. Elected were: Commander Robert Krause; Vice Commander East Harland Zietlow; Vice Commander Central Jim Romnek; Vice Commander West Fred Barke; Chaplain Stanley Jezeski; Sergeant at Arms Jim Nourse and Gerry Opperman. Commander elect Krause reported Loretta Miller will continue as Historian and Post 75 Commander Marcus Oksa has accepted the position of Adjutant/Finance Officer.

Election of delegates to the 2007 national convention was conducted. Delegates will be Bob Krause, Bill Stiefvater, Harland Zietlow and Ed Ott with Tom Schmidt as alternate.

Markesan asked that District colors march in their 7 PM June 9 parade. Chilton asked District colors march in their 8 AM June 17 parade. Princeton asked that District colors march in their 5 PM June 30 parade. An attempt will be made to accommodate the three communities. Commander Stiefvater requested any additional requests be submitted to him or commander Elect Krause.

Commander elect Krause reported an attempt will be made to launch a District website and that Omro Post 234 Adjutant Bob Wipf will be in charge.

There was a discussion regarding changing District conferences from Sunday to Saturday with no action taken due to the lack of a second to a motion.

Fond du Lac Post 75 was applauded for the fine meal and great hospitality shown the delegates.

There being no further business to conduct the conference was closed in due form at 3:35 PM.

Jim Romnek  
Adjutant