Voiture 751
Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Chef de Gare
Marlin Brand

Correspondant
Bob Wipf

January 2013

From The Chef de Gare

I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that all of the members have a good new year. Just to remind all of the members that our promenades are now scheduled for Neenah, Oshkosh and Omro. For you of those that were not at the last promenade this was voted on then. We are still in need of new members and also there are a few that have not renewed their membership for 2013. Also all of the members that attend the promenade will be required to show their membership card. Also do not forget that Voiture 751 will be hosting the Grand Promenade in 2014.

Marlin Brand

January Promenade

Our next Promenade is scheduled to take place at 7 PM Monday January 28, 2013 at the AL Post 33 in Neenah. Should you need transportation, please let me know and I will do my best to see to your need. Many of you have not attended a Promenade in a very long time. Please do try to find the time to join us again soon. You will be surprised at the many new faces in the Voiture since you last were at a Promenade.

Dates to Remember

January 18-20	Legion Department Mid-winter Conference in Wisconsin Dells
January 28	Promenade 7 PM Neenah AL post 33
January 27	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
February 1	National Freedom Day
February 3	Four Chaplains Day
February 7-9	Grand Mid-Winter Petite Promenade in Beaver Dam, WI (see article)
February 14	CVSO Organization Meeting 9:30 AM @ Coughlin Bldg, Oshkosh
February 15	Sinking of the USS Maine (1898)
February 19	Marines landed on Iwo Jima (1945)
February 20	Presidents Day
February 16	Legion Sixth District Americanism Banquet at Robbins Supper Club, Oshkosh

92nd Grand Mid-Winter Petite Promenade

The Grand Mid-Winter is rapidly approaching. It is being held in Beaver Dam on February 7-9. The general session takes place on Saturday February 9. The Saturday session will be extremely informative especially if you have not attended a Grand function. It is a great opportunity to meet our Grand officers as well as voyageurs from all over the state of Wisconsin and beyond. The Voiture will pay the registration fee of any voyageur attending the Grand Midwinter Petite. You can register the day of the Promenade, but you MUST pre-register for the Saturday night banquet ($15.00). A registration form is available on the front page of the November/December Badger Forty et Eighter or call Bob Wipf (920-685-5323)

2013 Promenade Schedule

January 28, 2013	AL Post 33 Neenah
February 25, 2013	Fire Station #17 Oshkosh
March 25, 2013	Tanners Tap & Grill Omro
April 22, 2013	AL Post 33 Neenah
*May 28, 2013	Fire Station #17 Oshkosh
June 24, 2013	Tanners Tap & Grill Omro
July 22, 2013	AL Post 33 Neenah
August 26, 2013	Fire Station #17 Oshkosh
**September 23, 2013	Tanners Tap & Grill Omro (nurses Dinner)
October 28, 2013	AL Post 33 Neenah
November 25, 2013	Fire Station #17 Oshkosh
***December 23, 2013	Tanners Tap & Grill Omro

* Promenade moved to day after Memorial Day (subject to vote)
** Nurses Dinner Social @ 5:30 PM Dinner @ 6:30 PM
***No Promenade due to Christmas (subject to vote)

Flags for First Graders

For those Voyageurs that have been unable to attend recent Promenades you need to know that the Voiture 751 has an exciting program called "Flags For First Graders." The goal of this 40/8 program is to present a small desktop flag and a short 20-minute presentation to the first grade students in our area. The interactive presentation will help first graders to better understand flag history, meaning of the different parts of the flag, and the proper respect and display of the flag. We also present information about what a "Veteran" is in terms that a first grader can understand. Since we are a small Voiture, this program requires the efforts of all our Voyageurs to be successful, so please come to the January Promenade and see how you can help.

2013 Flags For 1st Graders Schedule

Menasha/Neenah

School	Time	Students	Address
February 5th			
Jefferson	9:30 AM	46	105 Ice St.
Trinity Lutheran	10:30 AM	20	300 Broad St
Gegan	11:45 AM	38	675 Airport Rd.
St. Marys	2:30 PM	12	540 2nd Street
February 6th			
Butte des Morts	9:00 AM	121	501 Tayco St
Clovis Grove	12:30 PM	85	974 Ninth St.
Fox Valley Christian	2:15 PM	21	1450 Oakridge Rd.
February 7th			
Mt. Calvary	9:00 AM	20	N8728 S. Coop Rd.
St. Margaret Marys	11:00 AM	40	610 Division St.
Trinity Lutheran	1:30 PM	13	410 Oak St.
February 8th			
Martin Luther	9:00 AM	13	807 Adams St.
St. Gabriel	10:30 AM	32	900 Geiger St.
Mt. Calvary	2:00 PM	20	N8728 S. Coop Rd.

Neenah Public Schools will be done the week of March 4

This is only a partial schedule, more schools will added as information is available. Check the February Newsletter for the March schedule

Contact Dean Larsen @ 920-420-0024 for the latest schedule information.

NEWSLETTER AD'S

Please continue to contact potential sponsors using the donation form that has been distributed. There will be more forms available at the November Promenade or feel free to make your own copies.

OSHKOSH
WISCONSIN

COOK-FULLER
POST 70

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Deborah Hoskins
Commander

920-216-8500

Omro Pharmacy
Ken Bressers, R.Ph.
920-685-5041

Clopidogrel 75mg #90 $30.00
Atorvastatin 20, 40 or 80mg #90 $31.00
Call for price quotes on any of your medications!

American Legion
Hawley-Dieckhoff Post 33
P.O. Box 632
Neenah, WI 54957-0632

LENZ-GAZECKI AMERICAN
LEGION POST 152 MENASHA
PO BOX 441
MENASHA, WI 54952-0441

VFW Nicolet Post 2126
546 3rd Street
Menasha, WI. 54952

Have You Heard? Two Chiefs are getting wiped at the CPO Club when suddenly one of 'em throws up all over himself. "Damn, now my wife will kill me!", the inebriated Chief said. The other chief says, "Don't worry. Just tuck a twenty in your breast pocket and tell your wife that someone threw up on you and gave you $20.00 dollars to have it dry-cleaned." So they stay for another couple of hours and get even drunker. Eventually they stumble out and go home and this chief's wife starts in on him, "You reek of alcohol and you've puked all over yourself! My God, you're disgusting!" Speaking very carefully so as not to slur his words, the Chief says, "Now way a mint, I can splain everthin. Ish snot wha jew think. I only had a cupla drrrinks. But thish damn Marine got ssick on me. He had one too many and he juss koudin hold hizz liquor . He said hes was verrry sorry an' gave me twennie bucks for the cleaning bill! His wife looks in the breast pocket and says, "But this is forty bucks.' Oh, yeah I almos' fergot, he shhhit in my pants, too.

VA Claims Backlog Update: The Defense Department is developing more in-depth exit physicals for departing troops and lending staff to the Department of Veterans Affairs in an effort to help eliminate the massive backlog of disability claims. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said those efforts, combined with earlier department initiatives to create express service for simple claims and highly trained processing teams for complex ones, will help ease the problem in 2013 and keep the agency on track to eliminate the backlog by the end of 2015. Progress on that promise has been slow. Since July, when the new processing protocols were implemented, the number of disability claims pending for more than 125 days has remained stagnant, at nearly 600,000 cases. In fiscal 2012, the average VA pension or compensation claim took more than 260 days to complete. In a news conference 6 DEC, Shinseki acknowledged that "veterans still wait too long for the benefits they deserve," but he insisted that the department is on the right track to fix the problem. The joint DOD-VA announcements came after Shinseki and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta held their latest meeting on improving collaboration between the two departments. Panetta listed the backlog as a key concern not just of the VA, but also of his department. "We owe it to them to give them the tools they need to succeed," he said. "In many ways, this is a national security issue. It goes to the heart of taking care of the people who fought for us." In recent years, the agencies have worked closely to develop plans for lifetime electronic health records for troops and veterans, shared medical facilities, and better mental health research and response. The VA and DOD in recent months have been developing a transition program for separating service members, which should be fully implemented in early 2013. The two secretaries also said they're working on new joint suicide prevention efforts and that they have ordered their staffs to find ways to accelerate the lifetime health records integration faster than the 2017 target.

Those plans should relieve some of the stress on VA systems as thousands of new veterans leave the military in coming years. Currently, the 1 million claims processed by the VA annually aren't keeping up with the 1-million- plus new cases being filed. "We will get control of the numbers," Shinseki said. "We have both short term and long term solutions." Defense officials did not provide specifics on the number of military employees assisting with VA processing, or what the more thorough exit physicals will entail. Panetta and Shinseki said better medical information on veterans before they leave the military will simplify claims later on, hopefully speeding up the process. VA officials said the extra information will be especially helpful with severely wounded service members, who often have multiple injuries and much more complicated paperwork.

GI Bill Update: The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that GI Bill is now a registered trademark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and VA is the sole owner of the mark. "We will continue to support our Veterans by helping them obtain the best education of their choosing—a right for which they have bravely served, and which they have truly earned," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We all want Veterans to be informed consumers in their educational pursuit."

On April 26, 2012, President Obama signed Executive Order 13607, directing the VA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education to undertake a number of measures to "stop deceptive and misleading" promotional efforts that target the GI Bill educational benefits of Service members, Veterans, and eligible family members and survivors. One of the key components of the order was for VA to register the term "GI Bill" as a trademark in order to protect individuals and ensure they are directed to the right resources to make informed decisions. In addition, VA obtained the rights to the GIBill.com website after the original owners agreed to give up the site. VA is taking a proactive approach in continuously taking action to eliminate fraudulent marketing and recruiting practices.

"Trademarking 'GI Bill' is a great step forward in continuing our mission to better serve this nation's Servicemembers,Veterans, and their families," said Allison A. Hickey, VA undersecretary for benefits. VA will issue terms of use for "GI Bill" within the next six months. "We want to ensure the right balance with these new guidelines so that our stakeholders can still promote GI Bill and we can prohibit others from using it fraudulently," said Curtis L. Coy, deputy undersecretary for economic opportunity. Since August 2009, VA has paid over $23.8 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to over 866,000 Veterans, Service members, and dependents. VA received over 478,000 Fall 2012 enrollments for Post-9/11 GI Bill. For more information on GI Bill programs refer to 36http://www.gibill.va.gov/ or call 1-888-GI-Bill-1 (1-888-442-4551) to speak with a GI Bill representative.