

# Newsletter

Daugherty-Hamilton Post #234-Omro, WI  
February 15, 2012  
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Website: [www.omropost234.org](http://www.omropost234.org)



## **FROM THE COMMANDER**

Hello Comrades and Friends

The 6th District Oratorical contest was completed this past weekend. The winner was Omro's own Hannah Boutin. She will be competing in the regional competition at Ripon College's Rodman Center for the Arts on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Everyone is invited to see her compete. Many of our members attended the send-off for the 1157th Trans. Co. held at the EAA. It was standing room only. I'm sure all of the soldiers appreciated the support of the community. Since we haven't had much of a winter, we may as well start preparing for the spring and summer. The bowling sweepster is this Sunday, Feb. 19th at Legend's Lanes in Omro. The PEC voted to look into co-sponsoring the Fisheree in Omro. We are looking for a chairman or co-chairmen for this event. If you are interested, please contact me. I hope everyone is enjoying the mild weather!

Yours in Comradeship  
Dave Steinert

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Additional information about upcoming events can be found on the post website: [www.omropost234.org](http://www.omropost234.org)**

- 2/16/12 American Legion Winnebago County Council Meeting 7:30 PM Tanner's Tap Omro, WI (we are the host)
- 2/19/12 Post 234 9-pin Tap Bowling Tournament 12:00 & 3:00 PM shifts @ Legends Bowling, Omro
- 2/20/12 Presidents Day
- 2/22/12 President Washington's Birthday
- 2/22/12 **Post Executive Committee 6:00 PM Tanners Tap & Grill**
- 2/22/12 **Post 234 Regular Meeting 7:30 PM @ Tanner's Tap & Grill, Omro, WI.**
- 2/23/12 Five Marines & A Navy Corpsman raised the flag on Mount Suribach, Iwo Jima (1945)
- 2/25/12 Regional & State Oratorical Contest Finals, Ripon College, Regional 10:00 AM, State Finals 2:00 PM
- 2/25/12 6<sup>th</sup> District Americanism Recognition Banquet, CJ's Ripon WI. 5:00 PM Social 6:00 PM Dinner
- 3/02/12 Battle of Bismarck Sea Began (1943)
- 3/03/12 Star Spangled Banner Made USA National Anthem (1931)
- 3/08/12 Winnebago County Council Of Veterans Organizations 9:30 AM @ James Coughlin Building
- 3/12/12 Girl Scouts Established (1912)
- 3/11/12 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3/15/12 American Legion is founded In Paris at the first caucus by members of The American Expeditionary Force (1919)
- 3/17/12 St. Patrick's Day
- 03/28/12 **Post Executive Committee 6:00 PM Tanners Tap & Grill**
- 03/28/12 **Post 234 Regular Meeting 7:30 PM @ Tanner's Tap & Grill, Omro, WI.**
- 4/29/12 6<sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference 9:00 AM @ Post 75 Fond du Lac

***The Mission Of Daugherty-Hamilton Post 234 Is To Provide Services To Veterans, Their Families And Our Communities .***



**Daugherty-Hamilton Post 234  
106% Membership**

**Daugherty-Hamilton  
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Dave Lemieux  
**Adjutant**  
Bob Wipf  
**Service Officer**  
John Hoeft  
**Sergeant-At-Arms**  
Jack Haynes  
Dave Schmude  
**Chaplain**  
Steve Goller  
**Historian**  
Darryl Schmidt  
**Parliamentarian**  
Jim Romnek  
**Members At Large**  
Dean Larsen (3 yr)  
John Vonderloh (2 yr)  
Ken Jungwirth (1 yr)

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

February, what a great month. Here it is President day and thinking about spring. I would like our membership to welcome our latest members. Mark Bohn, John Horan, Tom Skaug, Paul Flack and Sherwyn Danke. Thank you for joining or transferring into our post. I still have 13 members who haven't sent in their dues for 2012. If you are having financial troubles, contact me at (920)252-1893 or if you plan on dropping out of the Legion. We work very hard to maintain our membership as we are all brothers and sisters. Vondy.

**CHAPLAINS CORNER**

A middle aged woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God, she asked "Is my time up?" God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."  
Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a facelift, liposuction and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color. Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance. Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I though you said I had another 40 years?" God replied, "I didn't recognize you." The question of the day is: Does God know me?  
Steve Goller  
Post Chaplain

**BOWLERS NEEDED**

Plans for the third annual 9-pin tap tournament are complete. The date and times for bowling are February 19, 2012. The bowling sessions will be at 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM. We need our Veterans to come on down and bowl. It's one of the fun things we do as a Post. Challenge your fellow Veterans, friends, family and neighbors to come on down and bowl. We need to do our best to fill the two time slots that Jeff of Legend Lanes as given us in order to keep on having the event. The cost is \$20 that includes the cost of bowling, prize money, a drink, and a donation to our Post. We'll be having a 50/50 raffle at each session also. This year's event's proceeds will go to Troop & Family Support.

## “Still Serving America”

### Post 234 Oratorical Contest



### Post 234 Attends 1157<sup>th</sup> Send Off At EAA

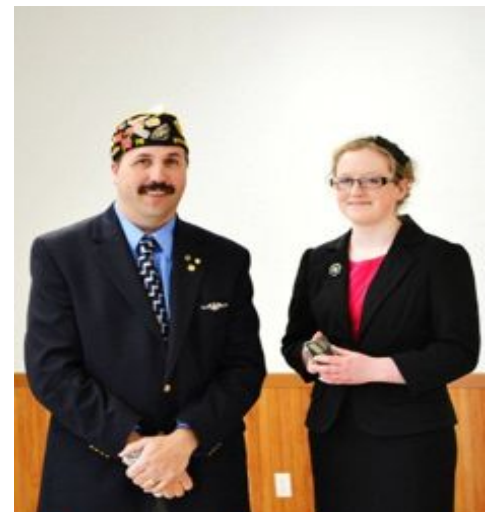


Post 234 Member  
Katy Werginz  
Deploys With  
1157th



## *Hannah Boutin* Wins 6<sup>th</sup> District Oratorical Contest On To Regional & State

Hannah receives Oratorical Medal from  
Jeff Puddy 6<sup>th</sup> District Vice-Commander



## Honor Guard Training:

We will have rifle training for the Honor Guard right after our regular meeting on Feb. 22, 2012. Anybody wishing to take the training may do so. I encourage all members to take the training even if you don't want to be on the Honor Guard right now. Once you are trained you can be added to our roster whenever you wish. I have talked to Pat Tanner about bringing our rifles into the meeting and he is fine with it. Any questions contact Dean through email or call 685-5610.

**VA Claims Backlog Update:** The only way to achieve VA Secretary Eric Shinseki's goal for 2015 -- that every disability compensation claim gets processed within 125 days and with 98 percent accuracy -- is to shift to a paperless claims system. And that transformation has begun. That was the testimony 24 JAN by VA's top claim processing official before the House veteran affairs' subcommittee on disability assistance. Tom Murphy, director of compensation service for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), an agency for the Department of Veterans Affairs, acknowledged the claims backlog has grown in recent years. Compensation and benefit claims pending at VA, as of 23 JAN, totaled 852,127 and 65 percent of them -- 557,460 -- had been filed by veterans more than 125 days ago, which means they are in "backlog" status. Over the last year VA processed almost a million claims but more than 1.3 million new claims were filed, some seeking compensation for the first time but most seeking an upgrade to current disability ratings. The number of veterans filing claims annually has more than doubled since 2000. The surge is tied to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and also to court decisions and to VA policy changes that made hundreds of thousands of Vietnam War veterans eligible for compensation for diseases linked to possible wartime exposure to herbicides, including Agent Orange.

Murphy didn't challenge subcommittee complaints that the backlog is rising. But he did challenge a lawmaker who suggested VA plans to move to electronic claim processing will only deepen the backlog, at least for a while. Given projected claims growth, Murphy asked, "How do we take care of those veterans in less than 125 days, which the secretary has stated is our goal, and do it with the resources we have currently on board...The only way we're going to be able to do that is...to get out of the paper world and into the digital world." VA will introduce "very shortly" an electronic Claim for Disability. It will be available through VONAPP Direct Connect (VDC), VA's online e-benefits site. The VDC site currently allows veterans only to request changes online to listed dependents on their benefits profile. To understand what's coming, Murphy said, veterans should think "along the line of your TurboTax interview process," but rather than filing income tax returns electronically, they will be prompted to file compensation claims. The process for an average claim will take 30 to 45 minutes. "At the same time the veteran has the opportunity to submit any private evidence they want considered in the case," Murphy said. "And just that little bit I just described to you [will take] months out of our process"

## VA Application for Health Benefits:

The VA recently partnered with the Army at Camp Shelby, MS, to test and launch a streamlined version of its on-line application for VA health benefits (VA 9Form 10-10EZ) for service members returning from deployment. VA will introduce it at demobilization sites nationwide by early spring 2012. The on-line application is used to enroll in the VA healthcare system, which has more than 1,000 sites of care across the country. It will reduce paperwork and speed the process. Enrollment for VA health care is done as part of a service member's demobilization. The online form allows the application to be completed during a regularly scheduled briefing for all Service members on VA benefits. Recently discharged combat veterans are eligible for five years of cost-free care and medications for conditions potentially related to combat service. Based on the Camp Shelby pilot program, VA plans to collaborate with DoD to offer the new application at all 61 demobilization sites nationally. For more information, service members may contact VA at 1- 877-222 VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility website:

<http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/>.