

August 2007 Newsletter Post 135

Post Commander - Wes Benze

I will try to explain the need of the 2008 dues of 30 dollars now. We were paying 25 dollars for membership this year, and some were still paying the old rate of 20 dollars a year. We covered the difference for the ones who couldn't afford the hike, but, now it is impossible to do that again. When we send in your dues, the State takes 11.50 and the National takes 12.50, making it a total of 24.00 dollars. This year the post made only 300 dollars from membership, and I was hoping for at least 1,500. It takes 400 dollars a year to put out the newsletter. We have programs this year that are in jeopardy: Boys State, children's home, poppy donations, etc. Lucky for us, the club picks up all of the utilities and maintenance and other bills totaling over a thousand dollars a month. Insurance on the place is taking up quite a bit. I hope this gives you some idea of what is needed here at Post 135. At past post meetings, it was voted to raise the dues to \$30, like the other posts in the state. Some are as high as \$30-\$60 a year for they knew it was going up! Come to the monthly meeting and log on to our web site; <http://www.oklegionpost135.org>

At the state convention, I got an award and standing ovation for bringing in legion baseball to Cherokee County, starting a Sons of the American Legion charter, and 100% membership that was attained. You all should be proud of your post and deserve a pat on the back. **Lets maintain the honor of beinz the best post in Eastern Oklahoma!** Imagine what we can accomplish if we have more participation instead of just a few. Come to the meetings. This is your post. Can't come out, then don't complain on what and who and why the post is being run the way it is. I always said that, any fool can criticize, but can they get in there and do it?

The Bandits finished the season at over **.500 ball**, a winning season! They start regional and district playing next. If they stay healthy, they could make it to the World Series in Bartlesville, in just their second year of play. It was a rough year for the teams around Oklahoma, and other neighboring states, due to the rain outs. The team is responsible for Playing Ball and Fund Raising to pay their own way. **The General meetinz is Aug 9th, which will also be the Women's**

Auxiliary meetinz at the same time. Anyone interested in the Auxiliary be at the meetinz at 7.00.

From the First Vice

Post 135 is now ready to kick off **2008 dues**. I have several that have already paid, and as soon as I get the 2008 cards, yours will be in the mail. The American Legion Fiscal Year is July 1 to July 1, but the new cards do not come out till after the state convention which is usually in the first part of July. So you super early birds do have to wait till ol' Tom gets the card to send you. We had a very good year last year with over 100%. (Adds a banner for our flag staff.) **Thank you!** Our dues have increased up to \$30.00 so it is going to be a tougher year this year. But **Post 135** has so much more going for it than it did a few years ago. We are having more cook-outs, cleanup-days, food, fish, *aid* fries.

Wednesday night dinners: I am trying to get people's attention on having things in the afternoon for our senior members!

We have also re-done our parking area, so no more muddy shoes. Please come out and renew some old friendships, we do have a great time!

Till we meet again,

Tommy Thompson 1st Vice

From 2nd Vice Carl Adams:

As for our **Wednesday Eveninz Potlucks,** they are going great!!! We have a pot luck every Wednesday to honor our Veterans. We put out a donation can at each one to collect money for socks, T-shirts, and briefs for the Vets in the Muskogee VA Hospital. Bill Johnson is so kind and caring to take care of this project for us. Thank you Bill!

Check the Calendar for our weekly dinner theme. Everyone is asked to bring a dish with the theme in mind. On grill night, please bring whatever meat you would like to grill and a side dish. **Carnival**

Dinner please bring a dish you could get at a carnival such as: **Hot Dogs, Corndogs, Funnel cake and Fried Pickles.** You get the idea! Please bring a side for the Hamburger Cookout. We will be having more cookouts when the weather cools down a bit. We will have a cake on **Birthday Saturday** to celebrate the members that have a birthday in August. Also watch your next months newsletter to see the date of our first **Turkey Shoot.** Now the really exciting thing, we have

a NEW **FLAGPOLE!!!!!!!** Come down and check it out.
Thanks, Carl