

LAST MAN CLUB

VIETNAM WAR ERA OF ST. PETER

JUNE 2022



LMC and the Fourth of July

The observance of Independence Day has become a remarkable show of patriotism and love for our country, and St. Peter does it about as good as anyone. The Chamber of Commerce hosts the "Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration" with a parade that starts at 10:00 am and finishes at Minnesota Square Park for an afternoon of musical entertainment until 4:00 pm.

Our Last Man Club will be well represented in the parade with Rich Willaert and his horse drawn wagon; followed by LMC members Tom Phillips and Dave Wagner providing a carriage for additional LMC members who are assisting with handing out

American flags to parade watchers. WE NEED LMC MEMBERS AND OFFSPRING to hand out the flags... meet at 9:45 at the intersection of Broadway and Washington. Minnesota River Youth Hockey will be assisting with flag distribution. It is truly amazing the number of friends and relatives that will be shouting for your attention as you hand out flags.

Following the parade, LMC volunteers for the afternoon at the famous Beer Tent. There is a need for volunteers for a shift from 12:00-2:00 or 2:00-4:00. Contact Windy Block (507 327-3422) or Dave Johnson (612 619-6205). See you on the 4th!!

Last Man Club Golf Classic & Veteran Relief Fund



The 7th Annual Last Man Club Golf Classic Presented by Ballman Roofing was held on June 17 at Le Sueur Country Club. With 192 golfers, 12 major sponsors and 280 hole sponsors, it was our biggest and best tournament to date! Soon, we'll know the exact amount of total funds raised and it will be announced at the banquet.



Tournament proceeds support the LMC Veteran Relief Fund which has now assisted 86 local veterans totalling \$70,000 in emergency relief!

Save the date! The 8th Annual Last Man Club Golf Classic will be held on June 16, 2023 at Shoreland Country Club.

WHERE ARE YOU?

If you have moved or changed your email address, please update the Last Man Club. Send your updated contact information to LMC, PO Box 414, St. Peter, MN 56082.



Join Us for Lunch!

Lunch gatherings are the 3rd Monday of each month. Chow line forms at 11:30am. We've reserved Gault Park during the warmer months and will use volunteer chefs/cooks under Camp Cook Rules. Lunch Dates:

- July 18
- August 15
- September 19
- October 17
- November 14
- December 19



LMC members place the wreath on March 29, Vietnam Veterans Day.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The LMC Executive Board is recommending the following Resolution 01-2022 that the By-Laws of the Last Man Club of Vietnam War Era of St. Peter be amended. Article III shall be amended to read:

Membership in this club shall be open to Associate Members, to become an Associate member you must be Honorably Discharged from the U.S. military, Active Duty military, Active Duty Guards or Reserves. An Associate Member will be a non-voting member of the Club. An Associate Member cannot hold an elected Board voting position (Commander, Vice Commander, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustee, Banquet Chairman, Banquet Vice Chairman). An Associate Member can hold the position of Chaplain or Sergeant at Arms. An Associate Member shall have all the other benefits and privileges of a Vietnam War Era member. Associate members will be accepted until the Club closes the membership window with a 2/3rds vote at an Annual Membership Business meeting.

This resolution is a result of several factors. First, there are many veterans before the Vietnam War Era, and many after, that would like the comradeship, cohesiveness, understanding and empathy that a Last Man Club provides, but those venues/organizations don't exist, or just can't develop the momentum to organize. Our LMC can meet those needs until the other respective Eras can get established. Secondly, as our membership ages, the need for more energetic and youthful volunteers becomes more apparent if we are to continue our community involvements. Veterans post-Vietnam Era can possibly fulfill this need.

The Board is not expecting a large influx of Associate Members, nor are we going to actively recruit Associate Members. This resolution is meant as a proactive amendment in the interest of serving other veterans, and well as possibly our own interests.

Resolution 01-2022 will be voted on at our Annual Business Meeting on July 23, 2022.



2022 LMC members place the wreath on Memorial Day at the St. Peter Veterans Memorial.

From the Commander

The Annual Meeting of the Last Man Club Vietnam Era of St. Peter Area will be held July 23, 2022, at Morson Ario Strand VFW Post #950 in Mankato, Minnesota. The Banquet information is enclosed with this mailing, indicating the Business Meeting will commence at 1800 hrs, prior to the dinner and program. This is *your* LMC Banquet and Annual Meeting and your prompt positive response is appreciated. Cost of \$25 per ticket remains the same as last year.

Please consider participating in the Flag distribution in the Fourth of July parade which begins at 1000 hrs, or the Beer Tent from 1200-1400 hrs, or 1400 to 1600 hrs. LMC gets excellent signage and exposure in the advertising, reminding the public of not only our existence, but who we are!

The third Monday of the month remains THE highlight of the St. Peter Public Parks! The reason? The LMC has its monthly gathering at Gault Park (north end, just off Highway 22, just east of Rivers Edge Hospital) beginning after 1100 hrs. LMC volunteer members have done a fine job cooking up the entrées and new chefs are welcomed every month. Consider attending if you haven't, and better yet, get involved with the luncheon preparation. The only thing better than the food has been the bantering that regularly occurs. The lasting comments I recall are the Air Force ate in dining rooms and lived in residence halls...the Navy lavished seafood platters and never had to make a bunk...the Coast Guard enjoyed restaurants and cottages...the Army thought C-rations were okay, but preferred K-rations because of the packs of four Camel or Lucky Strike cigarettes...and the Marines? Come to the next luncheon and

we'll find out.

The Last Man Club Vietnam Era of St. Peter Area is now in its 11th year of existence. The times have changed, our membership has changed, and what seemed obvious 11 years ago, requires LMC to adjust and change with these times. So it is with our Articles of Organization, which are available on our website at lastmanclub.com. Who would have guessed 11 years ago, that the LMC financial statement would be anything above \$20 per member minus costs for occasional newsletters? Who would have thought that 11 years after our founding, that walking a parade route would be taxing, or even physically impossible? These are just a couple of thoughts why we need updating Resolutions to our Articles of Organization. The Executive Board continues to evaluate keeping our organization up to date and bring forward to you at our Annual meetings.

It has been an enjoyable year serving as Commander of the Last Man Club, more so than the first time I was Commander about five or so years ago. Organizations like LMC can only exist with everyone contributing their share, in this case a minimal amount of time, for continued growth and existence of the LMC. Given the opportunity to volunteer for whatever the task, it is easy to look down at your toes or up at the clouds, any place to avoid eye contact, or just say "NO, NOT ME!" But it is difficult to admit, "I belonged to that organization, and it was vibrant, but it doesn't exist anymore, because no one volunteered." That would be sad.

Thank you again for your cooperation and involvement, and I hope you find our organization and its members as enjoyable as I do, and congratulations to our new LMC Officers!

Dave Johnson

