

LAST MAN CLUB

VIETNAM WAR ERA OF ST. PETER



Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony

March 29th, 5pm, St. Peter Community Center

The Last Man Club will host the annual Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony on March 29th at 5pm in the gym at the St. Peter Community Center.

- Pfc Melvin A. Lurth, Jr.
- 2nd Lt. Michael J. McClellan
- Pfc Dwight D. Tollefson
- Pfc Richard R. Weise
- Pfc Steven E. Wettergren



A moment of silence will be observed for all those lost in the war. Taps will be played by Mark Roemhildt. A formal wreath laying will also be part of the ceremony.

St. Peter American Legion will be serving a meal following the program for a free will donation.

The program will begin with the posting of the Colors by St. Peter American Legion Post 37 Color Guard and singing of the National Anthem by St. Peter High School student Rebecca Roemhildt. The Over 60 Band will play several songs and John E. Ahlstrom will be the featured speaker. The Mayor will present a formal proclamation.

A bell will be tolled for the following service members from St. Peter who were killed in Vietnam:

- Pfc Frederick J. Brenke
- Sp.4 Harvey G. Enz

LMC Flag Unveiled

Have you seen the new Last Man Club flag? This flag was unveiled at the Annual Banquet in 2022 and has been used at several events since.



Bingo Volunteers

The LMC sells bingo cards at the St. Peter American Legion on the first Wednesday of the odd months. This helps us raise the funds needed for the flags we hand out in the 4th of July Parade. Please contact Bill Kastens to volunteer at (507) 382-0413.

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VETERAN RELIEF FUND

LAST MAN CLUB VIETNAM WAR ERA ST. PETER AREA

in their 90's. The requests for assistance have ranged from \$45 up to the maximum of \$1,000. So far, the LMC has helped Veterans of the Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy. Requests cover transportation, housing, mobility, PTSD evaluation, dental, medical and more.

The Relief Fund is something that you, as a Last Man Club member, should be VERY proud of! It is hands on 'Veterans Helping Veterans.'



LMC presents check on 10/11/22 for 100th veteran assisted to Mike McLaughlin, Blue Earth County Veterans Service Officer.

LMC Veteran Relief Fund

The giving arm of the Last Man Club Vietnam War Era of Saint Peter

The LMC Veteran Relief Fund is funded by the Last Man Club Golf Classic and other grants and donations.

The Fund works with County Veteran Service Officers in a 6-county area and has been able to provide financial assistance (to date of 2-20-23) to 112 Veterans in need for a total of nearly \$95,000! The Fund has been able to assist Veterans ranging in age from their early 20's to WWII Veterans



Commander Pat O'Brien and PC Ron Haugen get ready to place the Veterans Day Wreath in 2022 at the St. Peter Area Veterans Memorial. **Thank you** to those who support this effort!

NOON LUNCHEONS

Luncheons will be held at the Red Men Club in St. Peter through April (except for March) and for the balmy months of May - October, will be at the Gault Park Picnic Shelter (across the street from River's Edge Hospital in St. Peter).

Chef's Choice is the main entrée, with a free will offering to cover costs. If YOU would like to be Chef of the Month, or provide a picnic kind of dessert, contact an Executive Board Member or volunteer at the luncheon.

The camaraderie and social interaction are priceless; and there's usually updates of interest for all veterans.



Pocahontas Members of the St. Peter Red Men Club present a check for \$300 to Last Man Club Commander O'Brien.

Where are you?

If you have moved, changed your email address or have a new phone number, please send an update to the LMC Clerk at rhaugen@fmwildblue.com. Thank you!

Giving to the LMC

The Last Man Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. If you would like to make a donation to the Club, it is tax deductible. If you are gifting the Club, make sure you designate where you would like the monies to be used - Veteran Relief Fund, Parade Flag Fund, Wreath Fund or General Fund. Gifts can be sent to Last Man Club, PO Box 414, St. Peter, MN 56082.



From the Commander

Greetings and Happy Spring! The sun is gaining strength, the robins are here and we are standing tall! Shoulders back, chests out, stomachs in, pockets buttoned and zipped. Now we are ready!

We meet for lunch (1100hrs to 1300 hrs) on the third Monday of the month. Come join us and feel welcomed here! We are an inclusive group of Vietnam era veterans from all walks of life.

Best Wishes,
Commander Pat O'Brien

408 Members Strong and Still Growing!

Little did four veterans sitting at the St. Peter American Legion having a beer, BS'ing, talking about starting a Last Man Club for Vietnam War era veterans, ever dream that in twelve years there would be a Club with 408 members! We have members from every corner of Minnesota and from all over the country - Arizona, New York, Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Alaska, Colorado, Missouri, Mississippi and Florida.

Of the 408 "Paid Up for Life" members, we have lost 44 to date. The membership represents four of the five branches of the military - Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy. We still do not have any Coast Guard members. There is one female veteran in our ranks. Army is the most numerous of our veteran members with Navy being second.

The membership window is still open so if you have a friend, neighbor or sibling who would like to be a part of this Last Man Club, it's still only \$20 for Lifetime Membership. There is an application on our website at www.lastmanclub.com or you can contact Ron Haugen at rhaugen@fmwildblue.com or 507-995-5575.

ANNUAL BANQUET & BUSINESS MEETING

The annual gathering is set for Saturday, July 22 at Morson-Ario-Strand VFW Post 950 in Mankato. Social Hour will start at 5:00pm with a Business Meeting at 6:00pm. Dinner and program to follow. More details to come!

SAVE THE DATES!

Here are some opportunities to show your comrades and community how proud you are to be a member of our Last Man Club:

- March 20th Luncheon 1100 hrs, St. Peter Community Center with St. Peter Community Ed Panel on LMC
- March 29th Vietnam War Veterans Day Wreath at St. Peter Veterans Memorial (time TBA)
- March 29th Vietnam War Veterans Day Program, St. Peter Community Center gymnasium, 1600 hrs set up, 1700 hrs program; dinner follows at St. Peter American Legion
- March 29th Quilt Drawing, St. Peter American Legion
- March 30th Vets on the Hill, 0800 at Red Men Club (Please make reservation)
- April 17th LMC Luncheon, 1115 hrs, Red Men Club, St. Peter
- April 20th Senior Expo at St. Peter Community Center
- May 15th LMC Luncheon, 1115 hrs, Gault Park Pavilion
- May 29th Memorial Day LMC Wreath (time TBA) at St. Peter Veterans Memorial
- May 29th Memorial Day observances in various communities
- June 16th LMC Golf Classic, Shoreland Country Club, St. Peter; Volunteers 0800 hrs
- June 19th LMC Luncheon 1115 hrs, Gault Park Pavilion
- Kettle Corn DAV Nicollet/Cleveland? (TBA)
- July Kettle Corn popping for July 4th DAV? (TBA) July 4 St. Peter Old Fashioned Parade
- July 4th Parade Flag Hand-out line-up 0945 hrs
- July 4th Kettle Corn Parade Sales DAV? (TBA)
- July 4th Beer Tent Staffing 1200 hrs – 1600 hrs
- July 18th LMC Luncheon, 1115 hrs, Gault Park Pavilion
- July 22nd LMC Annual Meeting/Banquet/ Election of Officers, 1700 hrs, Morson-Ario-Strand VFW, Mankato

Lunch and Learn on March 20

You are invited for a free lunch and learn program, Monday, March 20, 2023 at 11am in the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219 to learn about the Last Man Club Vietnam War Era of St. Peter Area. A light lunch and dessert will be served. Free will donation.

Registration is REQUIRED. Call the St. Peter Recreation Office at (507) 934-0667 to sign up! This will be our Last Man Club monthly luncheon for March.

Veterans Day on the Hill, March 30

DAV Chapter #10, Mankato is providing a FREE motor coach from the Mankato and St. Peter areas to the State Capitol to Rally in the Rotunda for Veterans Benefits. The motor coach will leave Morson-Ario-Strand VFW Post 950 at 8:15am and the St. Peter Red Men Club at 8:55am.



Last Man Club represented at Veterans Day on the Hill in 2022.

DAVMN will be serving coffee and lunch at the St. Paul Armory with coffee starting at 10am and lunch to follow. The Veterans March to the Capitol begins at 12:40pm with the Rally in the Rotunda from 1-2pm.

To reserve a seat on the bus, contact Ron Haugen at (507) 995-5575 or rahaugen@fmwildblue.com.



LMC Golf Classic on June 16

The 8th Annual Last Man Club Golf Classic Presented by Ballman Roofing will be held on June 16, 2023 at Shoreland Country Club and raise funds for the LMC Veteran Relief Fund.

The tournament relies on volunteers to raise money, sell hole sponsors and acquire donated items for the raffle and silent auction. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

One of our popular hole sponsor offerings honors the service of a veteran, their unit, ship, etc. For only \$100 you can honor a veteran and support the veteran relief fund at the same time. Would you ask a fellow veteran if they would be willing to sponsor a hole in honor of their service, unit, etc? If we all do just a little work, we significantly impact the success of the golf classic and the number of fellow veterans we can help!



Please consider sponsoring a hole in your honor or for a family member. Information on sponsoring a hole and the tournament can be found online at www.lmcclassic.com.

LMC Patriotic Quilt Raffle

Drawing to be held March 29, 7pm

This beautiful quilt made and donated to the Last Man Club by LouAnn Kastens-Blais is up for raffle! 500 tickets are being sold at \$5 per ticket. Proceeds benefit the LMC Veteran Relief Fund.

The drawing will take place on March 29 at 7pm at the St. Peter American Legion.



Quilt on display at the St. Peter American Legion during New Year's Eve Bingo.

LMC SUPPORTS CARE PACKAGES FOR MARINES AT GUANTANAMO BAY

Last Fall, the Last Man Club donated \$200 to support care packages for Marine Security Forces Charlie Company 6th Platoon stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The majority of these Marines are from Minnesota including several from the St. Peter/Mankato area.



Big smiles of gratitude from Gitmo-stationed Marines who were required to remain on base during their entire deployment.



A few of the items requested by the Marines. The LMC donation supported eight care packages.

The Last Man Club in Action



LMC Golf Committee presents Hole in One Sponsor flag to Elysian American Legion Post 311.



Nathan Tish, Nicollet County VSO, accepts check from Veteran Relief Fund at LMC Luncheon.



LMC Members gathering at the Red Men Club for the monthly luncheon.



LMC Members enjoy annual banquet at Morson-Ario-Strand VFW Post 950.



LMC sponsors hole at Helping Minnesota Heroes Golf Classic.



LMC Members deliver meals after Sweet Corn Feed to First Responders.



LMC Members place Christmas wreaths.



Mankato Marine Corps League Color Guard poses for photo after presenting the Colors at LMC Golf Classic.