

# LAST MAN CLUB

## VIETNAM WAR ERA OF ST. PETER



### Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony

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

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

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 Bob Lambert 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

- 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 pulled pork sandwiches with baked beans and chips for a free will donation.

### Golf Classic Trophy Unveiled



Have you seen the new LMC Golf Classic trophy?! Special thanks to Cambria for custom building and donating the base of the trophy and Terry Mueken for donating the statue.

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## VETERAN RELIEF FUND

LAST MAN CLUB VIETNAM WAR ERA ST. PETER AREA

### LMC Veteran Relief Fund

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

The LMC Veteran Relief Fund is funded by the Last Man Club Golf Classic, grants from the DAV Foundation, VVA Chapter 999 and numerous other 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 2-28-22) to 76 Veterans in need for a total of over \$60,000! The Fund has been able to assist Veterans ranging in age from their

early 20's to WWII Veterans 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. There has been a wide range of requests covering 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.'

**Thank you, DAV Foundation!**

The LMC Veteran Relief Fund was awarded a **\$15,000** grant from the DAV Foundation of MN.



Thank you to the donors who helped pay for the wreaths throughout the year at the St. Peter Area Veterans Memorial. Pictured is the wreath placed for Memorial Day in 2021.

## NOON LUNCHEONS

Overheard at a recent Legion Post meeting: "I wish I was a Last Man Club member so I could attend their monthly luncheons!" If you're reading this newsletter, you are a Last Man Club member and you can attend! They're held on the third Monday of each month. On paper it starts at 1130 hours, but if you arrive at 1115 hours you might think you're late!

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.

## 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!

## A Prayer from Chaplain Block

This is the beginning of a new day. The Supreme Architect of the Universe has given me this day to do as I will. I can waste it - or use it for good; but, whatever I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it! When tomorrow comes this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, and not loss: good not evil; success not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I have paid for it. Amen.



2021

LMC members sell bingo cards at the Red Men Club to raise money for the wreaths.

## From the Commander

I'm as tired as anybody reading a newsletter that always starts out with something about COVID-19! Bear with me, because we already know how this has altered everything social, which is central to LMC...we are a social organization, and something we can never lose sight, hearing, or feeling about!!

I take great pride in being recognized as a member of this organization, and I bet you do too. Sometimes it requires us to be wearing a piece of clothing that legibly displays our name, "Last Man Club Vietnam War Era of St. Peter", before we hear that chest swelling statement, "Oh, you're a member of the Last Man Club." And, it's even better when not in LMC regalia and we hear, "You're a Last Man Club member, right?" Then we get to say, "Right On!"

I know I'm not recognized as "a Last Man Club member" because of front page, sports page, or any page notoriety, and I can't think of any of us that are. Instead, myself and all of you are probably associated as a "Last Man" in our communities because we are seen distributing flags in a parade; proudly waving in a parade; staffing a beer stand in the park; popping kettle corn for DAV at the fair; selling

kettle corn at a parade; distributing bingo cards at a Legion; proudly assisting guests or participating in our own Golf Classic; participating in Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, 9/11 Day, and Vietnam War Veteran's Day; ringing a bell for the kettle at Christmas; the list goes on because I've probably missed a few!

My point is, we, the Last Man Club Vietnam War Era of St. Peter, are having an impact locally on the image of a Veteran of the Vietnam War Era. Quite a different perception than when we started basic training, or received our DD-214. As an organization we are maturing, not only because we have swelled to over 375 veterans applying for membership, but our continued comradeship with one another at our monthly luncheons; our annual banquets; and interest and concern of our comrades.

We've all read or heard that Veteran's continue service to their country when they return to their communities with their volunteerism, support of others, and follow through. Certainly, our organization and members reinforce this, and our communities recognize this through our actions.

## You Can Still Join!

Lifetime membership is only \$20 for Veterans who served 1961-1975. Recruit your fellow vets!



## 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:

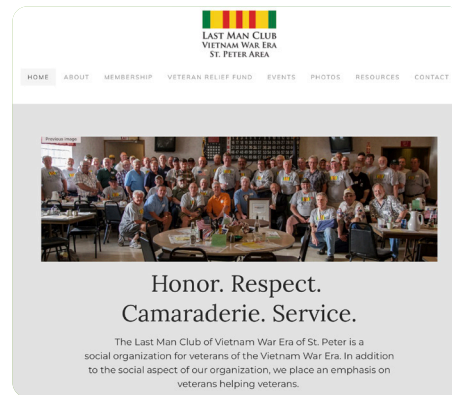
- February 21 LMC Luncheon 1115 hrs, Red Men Club, St. Peter
- March 21 Luncheon 1100 hrs, St. Peter Community Center with St. Peter Community Ed Panel on LMC
- March 29 Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Day Program, St. Peter Community Center gymnasium, 1600 hrs set up, 1700 hrs program
- March 29 Vietnam Veteran's Day Wreath at St. Peter Veteran's Memorial (following program)
- April 18 LMC Luncheon, 1115 hrs, Red Men Club, St. Peter
- May 16 LMC Luncheon, 1115 hrs, Gault Park Pavilion
- May 31 Memorial Day LMC Wreath (time TBA)
- May 31 Memorial Day observances in various communities
- June 17, LMC Golf Tournament, Le Sueur Country Club, Volunteers 0700 hrs, Banquet (time TBA)
- June 20 LMC Luncheon 1115 hrs, Gault Park Pavilion
- Kettle Corn DAV Nicollet/ Cleveland? (TBA)
- July Kettle Corn popping for July 4th DAV? (TBA)
- July 4 Parade Flag Hand-out line-up 0945 hrs
- July 4 St. Peter Old Fashioned July 4th Celebration 1000 hrs
- July 4 Kettle Corn Parade Sales DAV? (TBA)
- July 4 Beer Tent Staffing 1200 hrs – 1600 hrs
- July 18 LMC Luncheon, 1115 hrs, Gault Park Pavilion
- July 23 LMC Annual Meeting/ Banquet, 1700 hrs, Morson-Ario-Strand VFW Post 950, Mankato
- July 23 LMC Election of Officers 2022-2023

## Lunch and Learn on March 21

You are invited for a free lunch and learn program, Monday, March 21, 2022 at 11 a.m. in the Saint Peter Community Center, Room 219 to learn about the Last Man Club Vietnam War Era of St. Peter Area. Chicken and wild rice soup, bread 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.

## LMC Launches New Website



Our Last Man Club has a new website and it's full of great information! Go check it out at [www.lastmanclub.com](http://www.lastmanclub.com).

It talks about who we are, what we do and how to get involved. All of our events, both in the community and for members, are listed on the site. There's resources for all veterans, whether it be contact information for CVSO's or for veteran benefits.

Think of something we should add to the site? Let us know!



## LMC Golf Classic on June 17

The 7th Annual Last Man Club Golf Classic will be held on June 17, 2022 at Le Sueur 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](http://www.lmcclassic.com).

## ANNUAL BANQUET & BUSINESS MEETING

The annual gathering is set for Saturday, July 23 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!

# LMC in the Community



Lacy Wilkins & grandkids hand out flags in 4th of July Parade.



Ron Haugen, Jim Weber & Dave Johnson represent LMC in 4th of July Parade.



Greg Witty, Joann Johnson, Windy Block & Dave Johnson serve in the beer garden on July 4th.



Rick Walter, Stu McKee, Bob Lutz & Rick Biehn participate in LMC Golf Classic.



Fran Broderick, Greg Witty & Charlie Fogarty work at Sweet Corn Feed.



Bruce Frey, Bill Kastens & Rick Wright place wreath on Memorial Day.



Ron Haugen presents Hole in One sponsor flag to Red Men Club.



Heather Tollefson, Stacy Menke, Bruce Frey & Jim Holmstead place flags at Woodland Hills Cemetery.



Bob Lutz & Pat O'Brien place flags at Green Hill Cemetery for Memorial Day.



Bill Laumann & Bruce Frey on Veterans Night at a Gustavus basketball game.

## HOW VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CAME TO BE

Starting in 2008 several states began observing March 29 significant to veterans; in 2011 the U.S. Senate requested Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, and was moderately accepted; and March 29, 2012, President Barack Obama dropped the 'Welcome home' declaring the day dedicated as Vietnam Veterans Day, encouraging all of America to observe the contributions of the military members that served during the Vietnam War.

This was followed by the Coalition of States Council recommending a congressional proclamation in December of 2016. Senators Pat Tooney of PA and Joe Donnelly of IN authored the bill, Congress approved, and March 28, 2017, President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, recognizing March 29 as perpetual National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Our LMC began observing this day with a program in 2012.

## LMC Golf Classic Apparel

**NEW!** We're offering apparel for the Last Man Club Golf Classic! **PRE-ORDER** your items now and they'll be ready at the 7th Annual Last Man Club Golf Classic on June 17, 2022 at Le Sueur Country Club! Pre-order online at <https://lmcclassic.square.site>! If you're not attending the golf classic, alternate pickup arrangements can be made.

