



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Norfolk-Smith VFW POST #11041

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Though Palmyra's VFW can't trace its roots back quite that far, there were two previous posts in the community. Don Sutton, Post Veterans Service Officer, shared that in the late '40s and early '50s a VFW met in the basement of the old Sprague building. When the building was sold and the group lost its free meeting space, it disbanded. A second attempt was also not long lasting.

On October 29, 1990, VFW Post #11041 incorporated and was granted a charter. Members originally met at Palmyra State Bank but bought the current building from the American Legion in 1991 when they moved to their new facility on the north end of town. The Post chose to commemorate two WWII veterans by naming the post after them: Bill Norfolk, a survivor of the Bataan Death March and a POW, and Charles Smith, who was killed in action in the Philippines. A full wall mural, designed and executed by Vietnam veteran and artist, Post member Bob Craig, was featured in VFW Magazine in March 1997. The mural displays events from U.S. military history from the Revolutionary War to Bosnia.

Currently Palmyra's VFW Post has 132 members, veterans from WWII through Afghanistan. They meet the first Tuesday of every month.

There are ten local officers in accordance with organization guidelines. The post also sends representatives to district, state, and national meetings. The local post has an active Woman's Auxiliary.

Post members participate in a variety of projects and activities. Surely you have seen them leading parades or participating in color guard ceremonies. Perhaps you have also been at a funeral VFW members have attended in uniform in honor of a veteran. The VFW Post sponsors two essay contests locally, The Patriot's Pen for middle school students, and the Voice of Democracy for high school; the national winner for the latter can earn \$30,000. The group also sponsors a Teacher of the Year Award in the Fall with judging being based on patriotic activity. The Women's Auxiliary sponsors a Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.

Members go into elementary classes and provide flag education. They send care packages to local soldiers deployed at Christmas. Every November they distribute poppies at the 4-way stop in Palmyra with

proceeds going to the Veterans Service Officer Fund, the Honor Flight, and other veteran-related activities within or outside the VFW. The public is welcome to attend a Fish Fry held at the VFW Post the first Friday of every month; some of this money is used to help keep the Post in operation, and some is used to fund their many charitable projects.

Perhaps Norfolk-Smith VFW Post's most recognizable project is the Flags on Main Street. Old Glory waves from Ross to West Main Cross. The flags were dedicated in June 2013. A flag fund will be maintained to replace flags as needed.

Don Sutton, current Veterans Service Officer for Palmyra's VFW Post, was twice named an All American Post Commander, one of the most prestigious honors given by the over two million member organization. He handles disability claims for veterans and can assist with the paperwork for the VA hospital.



Veteran Service Officer Don Sutton, Post Commander Gene Ash, and Jim Boettcher, Guard, current VFW Post #11041 Officers.

All American Post Commander Hats awarded to Don Sutton, '92-'93 & '95-'96.

Some of the many treasures to be explored inside the Post.



Scenes from Post member Bob Craig's wall mural.



Five local VFW members have gone on the Honor Flight, a cause to which VFW funds are donated: Jim Boettcher, Titus Cassidy, Harlin Kitch, Gene Maddox, and Vernon Rayl. "It was the best trip I've ever been on," said Jim Boettcher who was stationed in D.C. during his service time. "Everyone who has a chance should go."

Current Post Commander, Gene Ash, welcomes new members. If you have received a campaign medal for overseas service; have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea; or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay, then you're eligible to join. "Visitors are also welcome! Come in and see the mural and all the museum memorabilia here," said Gene. The Norfolk-Smith VFW Post is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10-2 p.m.



Norfolk-Smith VFW Post # 11041

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Chamber Briefs...

PALMYRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting at the VFW Hall Tuesday, August 12. Secretary/Treasurer Susan Berti welcomed members in President Merkel's absence. On behalf of the entire Chamber Board, she thanked Michele and Randy Hopson for all their work in making this year's Marion County Fair run so smoothly. Berti also expressed gratitude to all the community organizations and individuals who helped make the event such a big success.

With the Chamber's next event, Taste of Palmyra, scheduled for October 20, planning will begin soon. If you would like to be part of the Taste of the Palmyra Committee please contact the Chamber Office at 573-769-0777 or Michelle Merkel at HomeBank (573-769-2001).

CHAMBER LEARNS ABOUT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Denise Drebes, District Manager for Junior Achievement in Northeast Missouri and West-Central Illinois, presented an interactive program. Junior Achievement, founded in 1919, is the world's largest non-profit organization that works to empower young people to own their economic success. Junior Achievement provides programs to schools at no cost that are founded on the three pillars of financial literacy, work-place readiness and entrepreneurship.

These programs are volunteer-driven. Schools request programs, and volunteers are matched to classes. Volunteers are trained and given all of the materials they need to teach programs. Individuals can infuse personal experiences to enrich the lesson for students and build a relationship with them.

Traditional Junior Achievement school programs run five to seven lessons. The High School Program, JA Job Shadow, allows students to partake in 3 in-class lessons followed by a job shadowing experience at a business. JA's Capstone Programs culminate with a visit to the Junior Achievement Center in Chesterfield. After completing work in their home school, fifth and sixth graders get a job for a day and act as an adult in that role in JA BizTown; seventh and eighth graders learn the financial responsibilities of being an adult at JA Finance Park. Lastly, in the JA Company Program, students actually create a real functioning business selling items such as school apparel.

To get a feel for how interactive Junior Achievement classes are, Drebes let Chamber members participate in a team building exercise that is part of JA Career Success, a high school program that teaches students what it takes to be successful in the work-place. The activity, though shortened for presentation purposes, had a built-in self-rating system with evaluation criteria. Chamber members can be quite competitive!

Last year, Junior Achievement served 5000 students in Northeast Missouri and West-Central Illinois. Palmyra's 4th grade participated last year, and Drebes has been working with administrators to add more classes in 2014-2015. Local volunteers are essential to Junior Achievement's success. If you would like to volunteer your time or make a donation to offset material costs, please contact Denise Drebes, District Manager, at 573-769-0161 or ddrebes@jastl.org

upcoming events CALENDAR

Saturday, September 6

Nick Smyser Memorial Golf Tournament

Friday, September 26

Palmyra Homecoming

Saturday, October 11

Citywide Garage Sale

Monday, October 20

Taste of Palmyra Forms online at showmepalmyra.com

Saturday, November 8

BLP Gift Show

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015

Annual Chamber Meeting

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS

Tues., September 9, 2014

No Meeting

YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

Tues., October 14, 2014 • VFW Hall

Guest Speakers:

*Join us for a Marion County Fair Update presented by
Michele & Randy Hopson.*

**Farmer's Market – Every Wednesday
11 am – 6pm behind the Country
Butcher Shop Pavilion**

**Chamber Email Address:
palmyrachamber@gmail.com**



Chamber members get competitive during a Junior Achievement team building activity at the August Chamber Meeting.