

American Legion Post 112 Newsletter
American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112 Elk River

2020
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Commander's News
November and December 2020

To all members of Post #112-I hope everyone is healthy, or at best getting better! I was quite ill for a couple of weeks with strep throat. I'd never had that before! The illness was serious enough to warrant a trip to the ER at Princeton Hospital. My throat was so bad I couldn't even swallow water! The doctors provided the correct medicine to take care of the problem. I have had 2 COVID tests-both negative, thank God.

The pandemic just won't go away. Seeing everybody in a mask reminds me of the B grade westerns that used to be played at the theaters before the feature film! Throughout all of this the post is still above water, but still at the governor's mandate of 50% capacity, with mask requirements, social distancing and sanitizing everything. We are making the best of a bad situation.

The membership dinner last month went well. I was told the food was great and all in attendance had a good time. I wish I could have been there.

The Honor Guard has been busy lately, unfortunately losing some of our long-term members to death. We will have our yearly Veteran's Day dinner and program on Sunday, Nov. 15th. We'll begin at 5:30 for socializing and have dinner at 6:00-Roast beef, mashed spuds, etc. The program will follow the dinner where we remember those that have passed away in the last 12 months.

The dinner and program are restricted to the post family (Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, Riders) only. Please sign up in the bar, or call the bar to place your reservation. Thank you.

I have said over many times over the past few years that we are looking for new ideas, or restarting programs that used to be done. Bingo is one for example. We are looking into restarting bingo in the halls. The bean bag leagues are going on now. If you can think of more activities, please let us know.

We are going to try a new format for our monthly meetings. The Auxiliary, SAL and Riders will be invited to the post general meeting starting Nov. 5th at 7PM. We will share ideas, problems and keep everyone up to speed with what's going on at our post. The first 15 minutes (or

even 1/2 hour) will be set aside to have this joint meeting. We could expand the time if there is enough enthusiasm shown. I'm looking forward to it.

I am planning to order some SAL hats to wear at meetings. We now have new Legionnaire hats for sale. See the bartenders if interested.

Please remember our Vet's Day program on Nov. 15th, and please support our Legion Rider's Sunday breakfasts on October 18, November 15 and the December 20th one which is the children's "Christmas Breakfast with Santa".

Please remember those that are ill, those members who have passed away, and pray that our country will return safer and stronger than before. Please pray for all those serving our country in the military who are away from their families.

For God and Country,
Tom Kulkay, Post #112 Commander

Post Officers

Commander – Tom Kulkay
1st Vice Commander – Bob Hackenmueller
2nd Vice Commander – Bernard Richter
Post Adjutant – Greg Artman
Finance Officer – Jim Holt
Sergeant-at-arms – Bill Stevenson
Chaplain – Chip Martin
Service Officer – Vacant
SAL Squadron Commander –Blair Overton
Legion Riders Director – Dawn Olson

B.O.D News & 1st Vice Commander

Greetings everyone! Hope you are staying safe and well. We look forward to seeing more of you at our regular meetings, the next will be Thursday, November 5th at 7 PM. We continue to follow all guidelines for safety.

The Veteran's Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 15th. Due to COVID guidelines, this will be a Post Family event. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for a Roast Beef dinner and the social hour beginning at 5:30. Be sure to stop in or call (763) 441-3150 to sign up so we know how much food to prepare.

Bob Hackenmueller
Chairman, BOD & 1st Vice Commander, Post 112



SAL Squadron

In case you missed it, Post 112 SAL has a new Commander! Blair Overton has been a dedicated fixture around the post for some time. He is usually found volunteering to serve in some capacity. It is that service of others that he volunteered to be the SAL Commander. Let's all welcome and congratulate him.

The ranks of the SAL are growing significantly. Most recently Scott Olson signed up 6 new members during the COVID shutdown. These members were part of the team that has contributed in several ways. When the bar was falling apart, they donated their skills and time to refurbish it. When the Honor Guard rifles were failing, they performed the necessary maintenance and cleaning to get them functioning safely again.

The discussion of growing the post is always at the forefront of every meeting. Everyone agrees that the SAL is our greatest opportunity for growth. There are so many things we can do to make the post

prosper. And with the talent, like the individuals we gained this spring have displayed, who knows where it will take us.

That brings us to an important topic. We need to nominate and vote in SAL officers to serve with Blair. Your attendance is requested to install a chain of command in the SAL.

Also keep this in mind. ALL SAL MEMBERS are invited to the monthly post meetings. This is your post too and your input is needed and welcomed.

The Post Commander has extended this offer to ALL SAL MEMBERS. Attend the next 3 Post meetings in a row (November, December & January) and the post will pay half of your uniform SAL Garrison cap.

The next Post meeting will be Thursday November 5th at 7:00 PM. Hope to see everyone there.

Submitted by Greg Artman, Post Adjutant



Legion Riders

Here we are again, the leaves are colorful and falling and the frost is on the pumpkins. To us motorcycle riders it can mean one of two things. One, the fall color riding is a favorite to many. And two, well, it's a long time till spring. That means the machines are tucked away and all we can do is look at them and think about the next ride. We are blessed and grateful that we had a safe and fun riding season.

Our Sweet Corn and Potato sale was once again successful. A great big thank you to Wingard Farms and Bob & Judy's farm in Big Lake Twp. for their donations. And thank you to everyone else that supported our cause.

We are excited to announce that our pancake breakfasts will be starting back up in October. Mark your calendar for the following dates: Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec 20 (Pancakes with Santa).

As you all may be aware, due to the COVID lockdowns this year, there were no elections of officers in May for all of the entities of the American Legion Family. This included the ALR as well. Since the formation of Post 112's ALR in 2017, Gary Lore has held the Riders Director position. He was responsible from the startup to the growing ranks. Gary has stepped down and the torch has been passed. We are all very grateful for his dedication and leadership that has brought us to where we are today.

We are pleased to announce our new ALR Officers:

ALR Director – Dawn Olson
Asst. ALR Director – Todd Jagodzinski
Road Captain – John Olsen
Sgt. at Arms – Kevyn Story

Also the Post Commander has extended this offer to the Riders. Attend 3 post meetings in a row (Nov, Dec, & Jan) and your Post Garrison Uniform Cap will be ½ off the price.

Rubber Side Down

Submitted by Greg Artman – Post Adjutant



Auxiliary News

It is great to once again be attending meetings and planning future activities with masks and social distancing being the new normal. While many enjoy seeing each other again, I and others do miss being there in person due to health concerns. I'm hoping things will improve soon, the COVID virus (with a vaccine) and my health. In my absence, 1st Vice President Sharon Hackenmueller is filling in, which I appreciate very much.

Cathy Artman is our new Chaplain replacing Mary Murphy. Thank you, Mary for your years of serving as our Chaplin.

Nettie Hackenmueller reports that plans for the October 24th Craft and Bake Sale are shaping up nicely.

The Veteran's Day dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 15th. As is the past, we would like to place blank Christmas cards at each table for members and guests to sign and extend personal greetings. These cards will then be collected and sent to deployed military personnel over the holidays. If you have any extra or blank Christmas cards that you would like to donate, please bring them to the next Auxiliary meeting on Thursday, November 5th.

Please note: The dinner is open only to members and their guests this year because of limited spacing, due to the virus; and **the dinner will be catered, no food may be brought in.**

The Auxiliary will also be accepting clothing donations at the dinner for the St. Cloud Veteran's Home.

A full page letter soliciting donations for the Poppy fund appears in this edition of the newsletter which also includes a return donation envelope.

Our final fundraiser planned for this year is the annual Holiday Bake Sale on Friday, December 11th, From 4:00-7:00 PM or until the goodies are sold out!

Members, please renew your membership, if you haven't already done so. If you aren't a member and want to join, we would love to have you.

God bless our veterans and God bless the U.S.A.
Kristina Dahlin, Unit 112 President

2019-2020 Unit Officers

President – Kristina Dahlin
1st Vice President – Sharon Hackenmueller
2nd Vice President- Cathy Artman
Secretary/Treasurer – Sylvia Frolik
Sergeant at Arms – Darlene Salitros
Chaplain – Mary Murphy
Historian - Ramona Doebler
Executive Committee – Lorraine Salk, Darlene Salitros, Roberta Takle, Ramona Doebler

Honor Guard

The COVID restrictions are still putting limitations on activities for the Honor Guard Squad. We have performed three funeral services for local veterans since the last newsletter in August. We also presented the colors at the ERX Race Park which was televised on national TV.

Honor Guard members Vaughn Smith and Mark Richardson proudly presented the colors at the annual membership dinner last month. Thank You gentlemen. Currently there are no Veteran Day Services scheduled, however that may change at the last minute.

We have a new member joining the ranks, veteran Keith Quammen. Keith was a dedicated volunteer during the COVID curbside dinners earlier this year. Please join in welcoming him to the squad.

If you have any interest in joining the Honor Guard squad, regardless of your experience, we welcome you into the ranks. We have Drill & Ceremony training available for newcomers. (SAL members are encouraged to join.)

Submitted by Greg Artman – Post Adjutant

CLOTHING DONATIONS

The Auxiliary will be accepting new clothing donations for the St. Cloud Veterans home at the annual Veterans Day dinner Sunday, November 15th. Needed items include sweat shirts and sweat pants, underwear, t-shirts, socks and any type of comfort wear. Zippered Sweat shirts and hoodies will also be useful. All sizes are needed. Socks larger than size 13 are appreciated by those suffering with swollen feet and are usually available at Walmart. All items should be in original packaging or have tags attached. If you don't have time to shop, cash donations will also be welcomed. Your generosity for our veterans is greatly appreciated.

**For Calendar of Events See:
elkriverlegion112.com**

**In the words of Paul Edwards,
6th District Commander....**

I urge everyone to remember that Legion membership is not a spectator sport and to be as active as you are able.

With that thought in mind, Jerry Takle, County Council Adjutant, shared this information.

The American Legion is organized into Posts (local), districts (Regional), Departments (statewide) and National. In addition a quasi group was established in smaller areas to help bring information to the Posts in that area. There are 8 of these groups in our 6th District of Minnesota. Our district stretches from Elk River to Baudette. The organized name of these groups is "County Councils". Our County Council is the Benton-Sherburne CC and is made up of the Posts at Rice, Sauk Rapids, Foley, Clear Lake, Becker, Big Lake, Elk River and Zimmerman.

We meet on the third Monday of odd numbered months. Our goals are to pass on information from National, Department and District, to discuss our local operations, to maintain our lines of communication and comradeship of our Legion Family and perhaps have a bit of friendly competition among the Posts.

These meetings are open to all Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Rider members. I think our Post has a lot to share with others and we can build some bonds in our area.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 7:30 PM, at Zimmerman. **You will not be asked to be an officer, be on a committee or obligated to make any other commitment. Interested???**

Jerry Takle (jtakle@aol.com)

CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

Please join us on **Saturday, October 24th** This event runs from 8AM – 6PM and admission is **FREE!**

You do not want to miss out on the wide variety of merchandise and fabulous baked goods!

SEE YOU THERE!

**Elk River American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 112
525 Railroad Drive
Elk River, Minnesota 55330**

Sept. 14, 2020

Re: Request for Donation to the Poppy Program

Dear: Legion, SAL and Auxiliary Members, and Friends

Due to COVID-19 we were unable to have our Poppy day. We want to take this opportunity to offer you our Memorial Poppy, hand made by Veterans. The makers are paid for each Poppy they finish. This activity is helpful as therapy and a small monetary aid. This is the only poppy which is handmade. These poppies will be available in the bar and at each dinner that we hold for our members.

If you choose to send a donation, every cent of it goes into our Poppy Fund, to be used for the benefit of sick or needy veterans and their immediate families, and to current deployed military. It helps to purchase gifts for the Auxiliary Gift shops at the Minnesota Veterans' Medical Centers at Christmas time. Here a veteran can select gifts for his or her family, free of charge. It enables our Auxiliary to remember veterans in Guardian Angels Nursing home at Christmas time with donations to their personal care accounts, to donate to Anoka Ramsey Community College Veterans Scholarship Fund, to Quilts of Valor for handmade quilts given to hospitalized service members, to help send packages to deployed service members, and to many other projects.

It helps to sponsor coffee hours at St. Cloud Veterans' Medical Center and Bingo Parties for hospital patients and provides prizes and refreshments. It makes it possible for us to purchase postage stamps, stationery, socks, personal grooming articles, etc., which are distributed by volunteer American Legion Auxiliary members. All free of charge to the veterans.

All this and many more benefits are derived from the donations received from an American Legion Auxiliary Poppy.

Please remember those less fortunate and those who sacrificed so much for our Country in its hour of need. Please help us keep up the good work. Thank you for your generosity.

For God and Country,

Kristina Dahlin, President

**Please make check payable to:
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112
and send in the enclosed envelope.**

This is your receipt.

Thank you for your gift of \$ _____
Check No. _____ Dated \$ _____

