

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

2020
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Issue 3



Commander's News
September and October 2020

Hello to all in the #112 family. It's been quite a while since we've had this communication. We are experiencing something unique to all of us with this pandemic. The post has been going through a rough time, as I'm sure you all are. We were required to close our bar, and basically close the post because of the orders and government restrictions, thus our major sources of income were eliminated.

The Board of Directors came up with the idea to try having curbside food orders. Monday was burger night, which proved to be very successful. Thursday was Taco night, also a success. The one night that "blew us out of the water" was our Friday night Fish Fry! We served more fish/shrimp dinners than any time in our history (not counting Lent). The dinners helped to pay our bills and "keep the lights on." This was all done by lots of volunteers who gave the post many hours of their time. The city also allowed us to expand our patio area. The post finances are still good-not great, but much better than we had anticipated when the pandemic "threw us the old curve ball." Thankfully we didn't "swing and miss."

The community really stepped up to help us through this period by driving up to receive their food. I was amazed that the average time from placing their food order to receiving it was a little less than 9 minutes. **Beat that McDonalds!** The take-out was so successful that we ran out of food a few times.

The government has now modified their restrictions, so we can now open our doors with 50% occupancy and with staff, and now customers wearing masks. The bottom line is we have the best staff and the best volunteers to help the post 'weather this storm.'

The newsletters will now continue (I hope) as we have done in the past. The Honor Guard has had a few opportunities to offer military honors for a fellow veteran, as the government would not allow any honors during the shutdown. I am sad to report that the post lost a longtime

member who was also the leader of our Honor Guard. Bill Dollansky passed away due to a fall at his home. The post was able to host a dinner after his funeral in our facility. Bill had many friends and will be missed by all of us. I would be remiss if I didn't mention and thank our post

Auxiliary members, who did all the cooking for this dinner. Thanks to you all.

I was also informed that Roger Tarnowski passed away on July 23. He was an active member of the post in the 70's and 80's before moving up north.

The membership numbers for the post are going up. We are now at 103% of our required numbers. Thanks to all who have been inviting people to see what we have at "our home" and getting them to join. Membership meetings will now resume on the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM.

Speaking of membership, the Membership Dinner will be held Sunday, September 20th. Socializing begins at 5:30 with dinner being served at 6:00 pm.

I have gone on a bit long, but just want to let everyone know that things will get better. Thank you to our members, volunteers and the community who are helping us through these troubled times.

Thank you all,

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 – Vacant

Legion Riders Director – Gary Lore

B.O.D News & 1st Vice Commander

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped keep everything running. As of July 25th in order to be compliant with the Governor's order all Elk River Legion patrons must wear a face covering/mask upon entering the Legion. Once you are seated and have placed your order you may remove your face mask. (Must be seated to take face mask off.) In order to move around inside you must wear the mask and maintain 6ft social distancing. Please do not move chairs around. If you do not want to wear a mask or don't feel comfortable coming in, outside seating is available. Masks are not required outside as long as social distancing is maintained. Our Bartenders/wait staff will be wearing face masks and YES it SUCKS when busy. Don't be surprised if they step back and pull down to catch a quick breath. Please do not take it out on the staff. They are just trying to follow guidelines and don't make the rules. We cannot afford to lose our liquor license. The staff has the right to refuse service if you do not comply. People who can't wear masks because of a medical condition are exempt and no proof is required. But we will document. Please stay home if you are not feeling well or don't feel comfortable. If you have any questions call the Elk River Legion at 763-441-3150.

Thank you for your continued support!

Bob Hackenmueller

Chairman, BOD & 1st Vice Commander



Sal Squadron

A Squadron Commander is still needed for this group. Please consider stepping up to the plate in support of this group.



Legion Riders

Asking yourself, where has the summer gone? Us motorcycle riders are! While we shake our heads in disbelief, we are not writing off the riding season just yet, as Sturgis marks the beginning of the end. The beginning of the season was also a head shaker. We have had only one meeting since February and that was mostly to do a wellness check on our members. We have not held our monthly Pancake breakfast since then as well. The Riders group did participate in Post 112's Memorial Day Ceremonies with the Honor Guard. There are 5 Rider members that proudly perform Honor Guard duties. On July 10th, we hosted approximately 45 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) members at the post. We donated \$500 to the IGYSIX fund raiser ride. The IGYSIX has been very active in supporting the awareness of 23 veterans committing suicide each day. 23, or any number of suicides a day, is UNACCEPTABLE.

We did manage a few group rides together. And socially distancing was not a problem for us! One ride that we proudly participated in was with the CMVA on July 18th. This ride was in support of the original Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Center, Minnesota. The Eagle's Healing Nest can house up to 200 healing veterans. This facility prides itself in aiding the healing of the invisible wounds of war. We rode over 300 safe miles that day meeting many new friends and making many great memories. We are looking forward to participating in future events for this great cause.

Here's to a safe and healthy conclusion of your summer. Rubber Side Down!

Gary Lore, ALR Director 763-238-3466



Auxiliary News

I hope this finds everyone healthy and managing to keep active. 2020 is proving to be a challenging year in so many ways. The past few months are traditionally busy for the Auxiliary with silent auctions at the Lenten Friday Night dinners along with selling sundaes and floats., the Post's Birthday dinner, Poppy Day, and the Memorial Day luncheon to name a few. Hopefully with our next scheduled meeting, September 3rd, (adorned in our masks and social distancing) we can start planning for the remainder of the year. Of course this will depend on Covid guidelines.

Membership Chair, Michele Smith shared that renewal notices will be mailed out in August and September. The dues are \$30.00 again this year and payment can be dropped off at the post or completed on on-line at www.ALAforVeterans.org. This is a quick and easy way to renew for those with access to a computer. Simply click on "Renew" in the top right corner. You create an account if you haven't one already. Once logged in, click on "Pay Dues". You will then be prompted to review your member info and input payment information. You can pay with a Visa or MasterCard credit/debit card online. After your online payment has cleared, you'll receive an email with a copy of your 2021 membership card within a matter of minutes. National Headquarters will also send your membership card via USPS mail, so please make sure your current address appears in your online profile. Members can also mail a check to me, Michele Smith, 18670 Simonet Drive, Elk River, MN 55330.

Roberta Takle asks that if you are making masks, please keep track of the number of masks you have made, the number of hours and the dollars involved for your annual 2020-2021 reporting.

The next time you update the "Green Book", please note where the masks were donated so we can put the numbers on the correct report.

National Security Program-masks donated to a VA Hospital that is serving active military, or masks donated to Blue Star family members, or masks sent to an active military unit

Service to Veterans-masks donated to Veteran facilities or veterans within the community

Community service-mask donations to schools, fire stations, nursing homes, etc. within the community

Mary Murphy, Poppy Chair

It is unfortunate that "Poppy Day" in May didn't happen this year. At the next meeting we will be looking into sending donation letters and envelopes for poppies and also take into consideration additional ideas for poppy distribution.

Nettie Hackenmueller is the new Craft Sale Chair. The 2020 Fall Craft, Vendor and Bake Sale is scheduled for October 24th from 8am to 6pm, pending any Covid safety concerns. Booth rental is underway and anyone interested in exhibiting or has further questions can contact Nettie via Email: nettiehack@gmail.com or Call/Text 612-298-1778

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- Mary Murphy

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

As many of you know, the Post Honor Guard ranks in recent years has shrunk in size, thus creating shortages at times for various ceremonies. So it is exciting to announce that over the past 18 months the Honor Guard has grown to 14 members. New members include 5 Legion Riders and 1 SAL member. If you have any interest in joining, we welcome you to the ranks. We have Drill and Ceremony training available for newcomers.

The Honor Guard did perform the annual Memorial Day Services this year at 10 cemeteries around our community. And were welcomed back to the post for a delicious breakfast served by Bob and Sharon plus other dedicated volunteers. THANK YOU ALL!

The recent Covid restrictions have been lifted and we have done a couple of ceremonies, including our own Honor Guard Commander Bill Dollansky. He was honored with a “Silent Salute”, as well as posting sentry guards during visitations at Dare’s Funeral home on Wednesday. On Thursday, the aquad attended his service at Central Lutheran and proceeded to Meadowvale Cemetery to perform the “Military Honors” ceremony for the family. A meal was served for friends and family by Auxiliary members at the Post.

Thank you, Bill for your dedicated leadership to the Post Honor Guard, the community and this Nation. You will be deeply missed by all.

HONOR GUARD MEMBERS:

Tom Kulkay	Greg Artman	Jerry Takle	Gary Lore
Doug Stilwell	Glenn Haugen	Vern Drexler	John Salk
Vaughn Smith	Mark Richardson	Charlie Finck	
Mike Lestico	Ron Walz	Bill Stevenson	

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is Friday September 18th. Let us remember those who were prisoners of war and those still missing in action.

Hugo Maunu Retires

It is with great honor to announce the retirement of our Post Adjutant Hugo Maunu. Hugo served in that position since 2012 and is also the longest standing member of the Board of Directors. After high school, he enlisted in the US Army and was shipped to Germany with a Field Artillery unit. There he worked for the First Sergeant as his company clerk. After returning home to Minnesota, he continued his service in the Army Reserves until 1967. Let’s all extend to Hugo a great big thank you for his devoted dedication and selfless leadership to Post 112, the Board of Directors, the community and this Nation.

Abbreviated Calendar

Board of Directors Meetings:

Thursday, September 10 and October 8

September 12 – Fall Par 3 Big Cup Golf Tournament

October 3 – Pub Crawl for CAER (Tentative)

Monday’s Burger Night 5-8 pm

Tuesday’s Bar Menu 5-8 pm

Wing Wednesday’s 5-8 pm

Thursday’s Tacos 5-7 pm

Friday’s Fish Dinner 5-7 pm and Bar Menu 5-10 pm

All available for dine in, take-out or curbside. Call for take-out or curbside: 763-441-3150.

Comments from the Editor

Who knew after all this time, that there would be so much news to report? Hopefully the full calendar pages will be back with the next issue.

Results of the “Survey Question” in the last issue were surprising in that only 9 members responded positively to receiving the newsletter on on-line. Will have to do some additional thinking on this subject.

And lastly, to everyone who submitted articles for this newsletter, I had to do some editing and cutting to get everything in this issue. Hopefully, I didn’t alter your message.

